

'Flying Saucers' Baffle U. S. Scientists

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'I Talked About Her Soul' Communist Woman's Conversion Began With Bishop Sheen Rebuff

New York (NC) — "I refused to discuss communism with her. I talked to her about her soul."
That is Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's terse account of his first conversation with an attorney and educator who was then this country's top woman communist and is now—three years later—a convert to the Catholic faith.

Bishop Sheen recalled here his first conversation with Dr. Bella V. Dodd, New York attorney, who was for four years the only woman member of the National Committee of the Communist Party in the United States.

The N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE last May reported that Dr. Dodd had embraced the Catholic faith, after receiving instruction from Bishop Sheen, whose other prominent converts include former Communist Party leader and Daily Worker editor Louis Budenz.

NEWS OF THE conversion was first revealed by Richard Reid, editor of The Catholic News, New York, in his "By the Way" column. But until now there was no confirmation of the report from either Dr. Dodd or the Bishop. Originally it had been wrongly stated that she "returned" to the faith.

"Dr. Dodd first came to me early in 1949," Bishop Sheen said. "She had been sent to me by a congressman to discuss communism." Bishop Sheen at that time was a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He is now National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and was made Auxiliary Bishop of New York in 1951.

ALTHOUGH HE refused to talk to her about communism, Dr. Dodd insisted on talking about her soul, Bishop Sheen relates. "She did not come into the Church then—in fact when she left my office that day she had not decided anything," he said. "But the change began then."

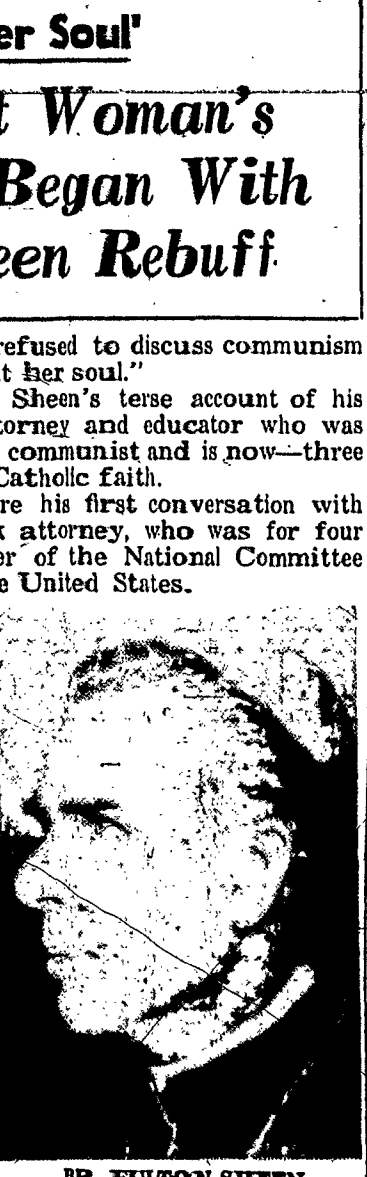
Dr. Dodd returned later to talk to the Bishop, and earlier this year he baptized her and gave her First Communion at St. Patrick's Cathedral here. "When she began to take instruction in the faith she was a receptive student," Bishop Sheen said. "But she was not receptive at that first meeting."

The Bishop added that Dr. Dodd was quick and intelligent in grasping points about the faith during her instruction. Her conversion, he said, brought her a peace of soul that she did not know before. "She has many times expressed her happiness at the new peace that has come to her," he said.

DR. DODD WAS born in Italy but came to this country at a very early age. A cum laude graduate of New York's honor college for women, Hunter College, where she was president of the student council in her senior year, she earned a master's degree and credits for a doctorate at Columbia University. She received the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence from New York University in 1930. The following year she was admitted to the Bar in New York City. She has been practicing as an attorney here for some time and a member of the faculty of Hunter College. Her first active association with communists, Dr. Dodd says, was in 1932, when she worked with various anti-fascist groups.

WHAM To Air, Telecast Presentation Rite

Elites marking the presentation of a \$30,000 check from the Diocese of Rochester, N. Y., to the Church of St. John Fisher in Rochester, England, will be aired over WHAM Radio Station Monday, August 11, from 7:15 p. m. to 7:30 p. m. The broadcast includes a recording made at the ceremony of presentation on July 28 in Rochester, England, and will also feature an introductory message by His Excellency Bishop Kearney. WHAM-TV station will also feature pictures of ceremonies in Rochester, England, on its 6:45 p. m. TV news cast on Monday, August 11.



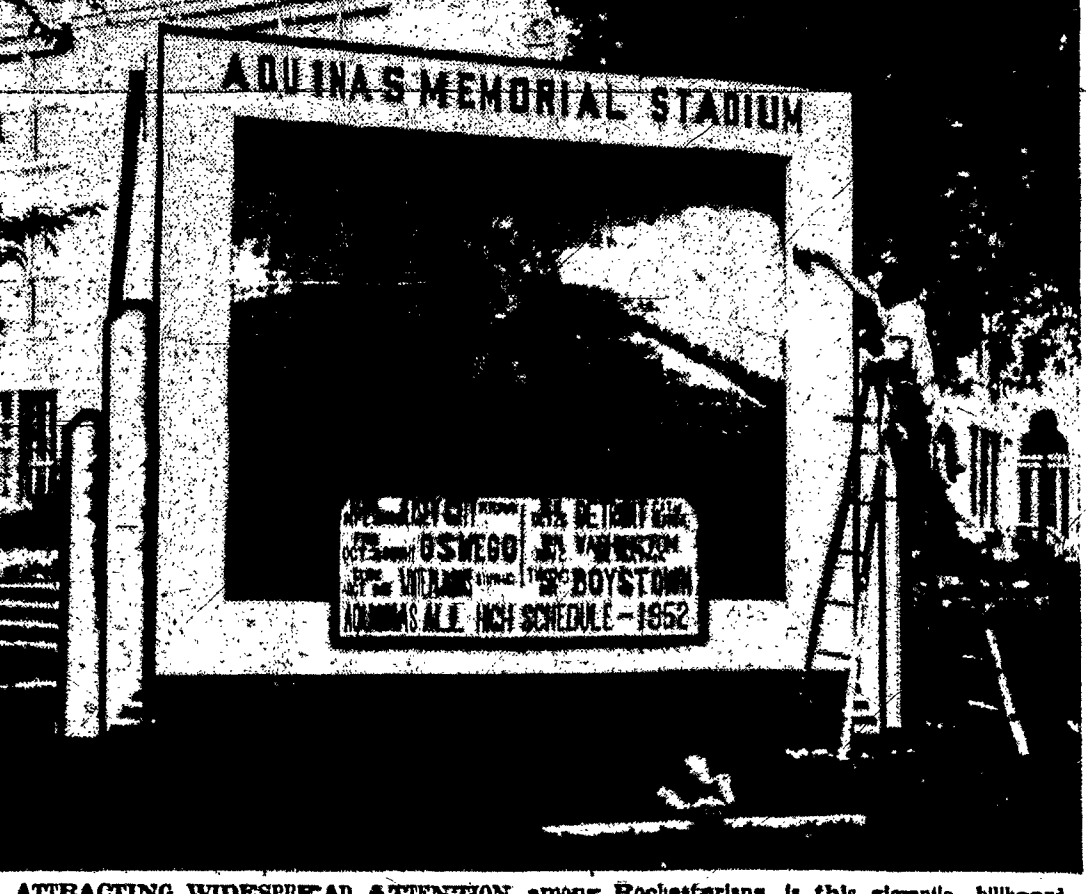
BP. FULTON SHEEN

From 1933 to 1935, she worked with the communists in their campaign for the Marcontonio social security bill, sponsored by former Congressman Vito Marcantonio.

DR. DODD became a member of the Teachers' Union in New York in 1935 and there, she feels, did her greatest harm in promoting communism and openly advocating secularism in education. In the following nine years she carried the communist line into the activities of the New York State Federation of Teachers and also into national labor bodies.

She states that she was responsible for organizing at least 1,400 teachers in New York State. Her principal opposition in labor circles came, she says, from the American Federation of Labor.

In 1943, Gil Green, New York City Communist Party chief, asked her to become legislative representative of the city's Communist Party because so many of its male members were going into the armed forces. In that post she replaced St. Gerston, former official of the staff of the Borough of Manhattan. Her orders were to "break down red-baiting" (Continued on Page 9)



ATTRACTING WIDESPREAD ATTENTION among Rochesterians is this gigantic billboard erected on the campus of Aquinas Institute to announce the school's football schedule. Designed and created by the Rev. Leonard Cullen, O.S.B., Aquinas dramatics teacher, the clever display shows an Aquinas player superimposed on a panoramic view of the school's Memorial Stadium. Unique feature of the display, which is illuminated at night, is the dramatized quarterback whose arm moves in the realistic action of throwing a forward pass. Aquinas football team opens its season against St. Peter's of Jersey City on September 28.

Religious Vacation Schools List 2,486 Attendance

A total of 2,486 children in the Diocese of Rochester attended the Annual Religious Vacation School this summer, the Rev. Albert Schnacky, diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, announced this week.

EIGHTY-SIX NUNS from five orders taught the children with the assistance of forty-five "Helpers", usually mothers of the children who supplied transportation for pupils and teachers. Three new schools were conducted this year in Sampson, Stanley and Rushville, Red Creek and Greece. Children are prepared to make their First Holy Communion in many parishes and Altar Boys are trained and girls rehearse for choir under the guidance of the Sisters in charge.

No Meat On Vigil

Thursday, Aug. 14, the Vigil of the Assumption, is a day of fast and abstinence. The use of meat is NOT ALLOWED. Friday, the Feast of the Assumption, is not a day of abstinence. Meat may be used as often as desired.

Kindergarten Goes To College



BACK TO KINDERGARTEN this summer, these youngsters who are taking a course in kindergarten activity at Nazareth College in Rochester. Pictured from left: Sister Helen Agnes, S.N., instructor; Sister Mary Claudia, O.S.F., Elizabeth, N. J., Mother Andrew, O.S.V., Malone, N. Y.; Sister Carlotta, O.S.F., Grand Rapids, Mich., and (standing in rear) Sister Leonilla, V.S.C., Pottsville, Pa. Subjects of their study and attention are (from left) youngsters Peter Sullivan, Donna Lesesse and Thomas Capriotti. The annual summer course features a lecture-laboratory-conference technique, with demonstrations in current kindergarten theory and practice. (Courier Photo)

Official

The offices of the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal will be closed from August 9 to September 2 inclusive. No appointments or interviews will be granted during this period.

Actress Dedicates Family To Blessed Virgin Mary

Los Angeles (NC) — In commemoration of their 12th wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lewis, is — he's a Hollywood film producer, she's movie actress Loretta Young — with their three children, assisted at Mass and received Holy Communion in the chapel of the Immaculate Heart of the Sacred Fathers here.

Irish Motor Vehicles Blessed

Dublin (IRISH) — Motor vehicles of the Irish National Transport Company were blessed at the Franciscan church, Merchant's Quay, here, in what was believed to be the first such ceremony for the government-owned transportation system. The vehicles were driven to the church and parked while their drivers and conductors attended a special Mass, after which the blessing took place.

Buffalo Priest Named Bishop In Raleigh

Washington (NC) — Msgr. James J. Navagh, a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo, has been named Titular Bishop of Orabi and Auxiliary to Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, North Carolina. Bishop-elect Navagh is presently director of the Missionary Apostolate in the Diocese of Buffalo, with headquarters at Blessed Sacrament church in Delavan, N. Y. He has held that office for the last 12 years.

MONSIGNOR Navagh was born in Buffalo, April 4, 1901, the son of George Thomas and Katherine (Horn) Navagh, both deceased. He attended Canisius College, Buffalo, and Our Lady of the Angels Seminary, Niagara University, Niagara Falls, N. Y. He was ordained to the priesthood in Cathedral of St. Joseph, in Buffalo, December, 21, 1929.

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Experts Admit 'Phenomena' Of 'Flying Saucers' But Give No Key To Mystery

Other Worlds, Men-like Creatures 'Are Possible' Says Catholic Doctrine

The author of the following article is dean of the School of Sacred Theology at the Catholic University of America, associate editor of The American Ecclesiastical Review, and widely known as a radio speaker, author and teacher.

By THE VERY REV. FRANCIS J. CONNELL, C.S.S.R.
(Written for N. C. W. C. News Service)

The conjecture by some scientists that the alleged "flying saucers" are space ships from another planet poses a pointed theological question.

Can Catholic doctrine admit of one or perhaps more worlds, other than ours, peoples with rational beings similar



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
Long before "space ships" from other planets became a feature of the Sunday comics, Catholic theologians like Thomas Aquinas saw the possibility of worlds other than our own earth.

to men on earth? Or, must we conclude—from the fact that the Bible often mentions of any other world inhabited by rational creatures—that only the earth contains beings made up of material bodies and spiritual, intellectual and immortal souls?

THE ANSWER OF theology is: "Neither revelation, the common teaching of the Fathers, tradition, nor the solemn pronouncements of the Pope rule out the possibility of life, perhaps similar to ours, on another planet."

Theologians have speculated on this problem long before Orson Welles frightened America with dramas of "Men from Mars" or Buck Rogers and before "space ships" became standard fantasies in the Sunday comics.

More than 70 years ago the question was discussed by the Rev. Angelo Secchi, famous Italian Jesuit astronomer, and the Rev. Jacques Monsabre, prominent French Dominican orator. Both admitted the possibility of rational creatures existing on another planet.

A MODERN theologian who touched on the question is the Rev. George Van Noort, a Dutch scholar who died within the last decade. In his "Treatise on God the Creator," published in 1920, Father Van Noort states: "A person would not violate the faith who would believe that there are certain rational creatures on other heavenly bodies." (page 122).

Theologians have never dared to limit the Omnipotence of God to the creation of the world we know.

However, if other worlds and other rational animals exist, they need not be under the same dispensation of grace as the descendants of Adam and Eve. They would not have incurred Original Sin because of the fall of Adam in Paradise. Consequently, they need not have required the Redemption which God's Own Son brought to our mankind through His death on the cross.

IF GOD CREATED other rational animals the theologian can imagine a number of various states in which they might exist. Here are four of the principal ones:

(1) It is possible that these conjectured beings, like our first parents, received a supernatural destiny from God together with extraordinary preternatural gifts. And it is possible that like our first parents they sinned and lost these gifts.

The preternatural gifts lost by Adam and Eve include immortality of the body, a perfect control

(NOWC News Service) With the nation in a grip of speculation over "flying saucers"—what they are and are there such things?—the N.C.W.C. News Service has sought out opinions both in the scientific and theological fields on the subject.

Impetus has been given the "flying saucer" subject by reports that objects resembling what the "saucers" are supposed to look like have been spotted on radar. But U. S. Air Force officials say that radar picks up any number of unidentifiable objects—such as rain squalls, water spouts, birds, mist spray and even a wave from another radar.

THE CONSENSUS of opinion as gathered by N.C.W.C. News Service seems to be that "flying saucers" are phenomena, but—

An authority in scientific research acknowledges that objects could be made to travel at "flying saucer" speeds but adds there is no dependable data upon which to base conclusions regarding the "saucers."

An expert in the field of aerodynamics at the nation's leading Catholic university points out that "flying saucers" are nothing new and have been reported as being seen for years. He confidently expects that meteorologists one day will come up with the answer.

One of the nation's leading astronomical authorities holds that there is no use speculating on the subject because there is nothing to speculate on.

An eminent theologian, while not plunging for the interplanetary machine theory, nevertheless points out that nothing in theology would discount the possibility that life—even a better life than world-bound folks know it—exists on other planets.

HOWEVER, THESE are the opinions of three authorities in scientific fields give the N.C.W.C. News Service.

Dr. George S. Papp, director of the Institute of Divine Theology at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, discoverer of the Kevlar fiber and the Specter sun lamp light treatment process, and author of works on scientific subjects.

With the piercing of the ultrasonic barrier, there seems to be little reason to doubt the possibility that objects can travel at many of the speeds reported for "flying saucers."

The absence of dependable data makes it extremely hazardous for the scientist to render an opinion on this sensational phenomenon.

Scientists have long speculated on the existence of life on other planets but have encountered great difficulties in justifying the belief that life as we know it can exist there.

The narrow temperature range in which man can exist, atmospheric conditions, the composition of air, oxygen tension, the energy distribution of the sun's spectrum, the presence of vitamins and trace elements, and innumerable other factors all permit of only minor variations for the existence of life as we know it.

Science, however, cannot deny the possibility of life in another form on other planets under another set of conditions.

The Rev. Francis J. Heyden, S.J., astronomer at Georgetown University, who was chief astronomer of the Manila Observatory (Continued on Page 9)

Mass Slated At Idlewild Airport

Brooklyn, N. Y. (NC) — Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation for employees and passengers have been inaugurated by Idlewild Airport with the approval of Archbishop Thomas E. McElroy, Bishop of Brooklyn. The Masses will be offered at 7:15 a. m. in the dining room of the airport's Brasserie Restaurant. Responsible for arranging the weekly Masses was the Rev. Walter J. Muebach, assistant pastor of Christ the King Church, Springfield, Long Island City. The Masses will be offered by priests of his parish. According to Father Muebach, credit for inaugurating the weekly Mass is due largely to the Catholic employees of the airport.

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