

Ex-Communist

Tells Senate Group Party Opposes Religion

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Atheism is just as much a part of the Communist Party doctrine in this country as it is in Soviet Russia or in any of the satellite countries.

This was the testimony of a former communist before the Senate Internal Security Committee, according to the text of hearings made public by that group.

THE WITNESS was Herbert Romerstein of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was not quite 20 years of age when he appeared before the committee on April 12, 1951, but who testified that he had been a member of the Communist Party as a high school student. The committee report describes him as "formerly of the inner circle of the Communist Party's apparatus among youth."

A question and answer exchange between Mr. Romerstein and Senator William E. Jenner of Indiana is given in the committee report as follows:

"Senator Jenner: In your association as a Communist Party member of the various youth organizations you described in your testimony did you get any indoctrination along the lines of the churches; in other words, did you get into atheism?"

"Mr. Romerstein: Yes, sir. Atheism is one of the basic party doctrines."

"Senator Jenner: How about the morals of the youth? Has any of that crept into these youth organizations?"

"Mr. Romerstein: The party concept of morality is this: If it is for the benefit of the party, then it is moral. If it is opposed to the needs of the party, then it is immoral."

"Senator Jenner: In your particular case where your father and mother objected to your taking part in the Communist Party and these front organizations and youth organizations, did the Communist organizations try to keep you separated from your home, tell you that your parents were wrong and that you were right? Did you get any of that?"

Mr. Romerstein: Certainly, definitely, and my feeling and the feeling of the Communists I knew was that I was correct and my parents were wrong. As I in-

said, we had quite a few fights in the house about the question. I always came away feeling that I was right and my parents did not know what they were talking about."

Before the same committee, a witness not as cooperative as Mr. Romerstein testified for something "less" than an hour and in that period refused more than 80 times to answer questions on the ground that "it might tend to incriminate" the witness. In the course of the same hour, the witness did answer some questions, replied "I don't know" to others, and professed not to remember in response to still others.

THE MONOTONY of this testimony was broken briefly by an exchange on the subject of religion between the witness and a member of the committee staff who was putting the questions. It ran as follows:

"What is your religious affiliation?"

"Well, I am not affiliated with the church at this time."

"What did you say?"

"I am not affiliated with the church at this time."

"When were you last affiliated with a church?"

"I THINK when I was in high school, I think junior high school or high school."

"What church were you affiliated with then?"

"A. M. E. Zion."

"Are you an atheist?"

"No."

"Do you believe in God?"

"I would say I don't know."

"Well, then, you are an agnostic, are you not?"

"That is more like it; yes."

Missionary Work

Nismey, French West Africa — (NC) — Missionary contributions to native welfare have been highly praised here by French Minister of Colonies Pierre Pflim-

New Statue



The Rev. Matthew M. McGlynn, O.P., well known priest-sculptor, has completed this statue of Blessed John of Verceili, who in 1274, founded the Holy Name Society. It will stand in the recently established Verceili Shrine at the national headquarters of the Holy Name Society, New York, John of Verceili was the sixth Master General of the Order of Preachers. He was beatified by Pope Pius X in 1903.

Poles Pray For 'Miracle Of Vistula'

London — (NC) — Polish exiles in Britain prayed for a second "miracle of the Vistula" when they gathered throughout the country for ceremonies marking Polish National Day.

The first "miracle of the Vistula" occurred 32 years ago when Polish troops halted and defeated the advancing Bolshevik troops in a battle near Warsaw.

More than 6,000 exiled Poles, led by Gen. R. Odzierszynski, prime minister of the Polish government-in-exile, attended services at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Hedsnesford, Staffordshire. The government-in-exile is still recognized by the Holy See and some other powers.

Nun-Surgeon Operates On U. S. Sailor, Shipmates Offer Gifts In Gratitude

Aboard USS Alfred A. Cunningham, Aug. 21 — (NC) — Billy Ray Chapman of Williamson, West Va., a sailor on this destroyer, was a pretty sick man. He had collapsed some hours after a hard baseball game played on the Formosa beach. There was no doctor aboard the ship. The only other U. S. ship in the harbor also lacked a doctor. There was one small hospital ashore — St. Joseph's in Kaohsiung.

THE STRICKEN man was carried ashore that night to St. Joseph's. Hospitalman Chief Paul Caviani of Helper, Utah, came with him and asked to see the doctor.

"I'm the doctor," said white-robed Sister M. Hilda Maler, with a smile.

Chief Caviani went back to the ship, slightly bewildered and greatly impressed by the nun who was also a graduate physician and surgeon. St. Joseph's might be small and inadequately equipped, but it was certainly an efficiently run institution with a fine spirit.

Next day, the ship's executive, Lt. Commander B. F. Uran of San Diego, Calif., came with Caviani to check on their shipmate's progress. Sister Hilda's diagnosis made it clear that the patient would have to stay in the hospital, while the Cunningham was on her next patrol in the Formosa Straits.

Lt. Commander Uran noted the excellent care Chapman was receiving. He also noted the needs of the hospital, the only one in Kaohsiung, a sizeable city.

The ship left port that noon. The crew heard about the kind treatment the sick man was receiving and the needs of the small hospital, which is largely a charitable institution. Right away a Sister Hilda Gift Fund was opened.

A WEEK LATER, the Cunningham again entered Kaohsiung. That afternoon a delegation representing the ship's company and half a dozen different denominations went ashore to visit the hospital.

They were Lt. James E. Kinard (Southern Baptist) of El Dorado, Ark.; Lt. (j.g.) Charles L. La Barge (Catholic), St. Louis, Mo.; Lt. (j.g.) George B. Riley (Protestant), Chaplain, Point Loma, San Diego, Cal.; Jack Hellstrom (Latter Day Saints), Murray, Utah; P. Miller (Hebrew), Chicago, Ill.; Thomas J. Thompson (Protestant), Galveston, Tex.; John P. Davis (Pentecostal), Salinas, Cal.;



When sailors from the USS Cunningham came ashore at Kaohsiung, Formosa, with a sick shipmate and asked for a doctor, they were surprised to find that white-robed Sister M. Hilda Maler (seated) at St. Joseph's Hospital was the doctor and a graduate of George Washington University Medical School, Washington, D. C. Shows in photo with her is Sister M. Clara, one of the seven native Chinese nuns, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who help her staff the small 22-bed hospital. In thanksgiving for a successful operation, the sailors returned in a week with gifts and a sizeable check to aid the charitable work of the nuns.

Richard J. Quijada (Catholic), Compton, Cal.; and Chief Caviani (Catholic).

At the hospital Lieutenant Kinard presented Sister M. Hilda with gifts and cash totaling approximately \$360. He said:

"Sister, these gifts and money are from the Cunningham to you for your hospital. The men here represent different religious faiths. We want to thank you and God for the marvelous work you are doing."

Sister Hilda is an energetic, enthusiastic member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, whose motherhouse is in Paterson, N. J. She was born in Germany, spent nine years in the U. S. and was graduated from George Washington University, Washington, D. C., in 1938.

She and seven other nuns, some of whom are Chinese, treat from 70 to 100 cases a day. Since the hospital was established in April, 1949, they have treated more than 130,000 out-patients

Hong Kong Chinese Debunk People's War' On Church

Hong Kong — (NC) — The Chinese in Hong Kong give practical proof every day that the people in China are not behind the communist attack on the Church.

They give this proof in the respect shown everywhere in Hong Kong for priests, Brothers and Sisters. They give it by crowding Catholic schools with their children. They go to Catholic hospitals and dispensaries when they are ill. More than 2,000 of them become Catholics here every year.

HONG KONG, an island with a stretch of the adjacent mainland, all under British rule, is next-door to communist-ruled China. The more than 2,000,000 Chinese here are exactly the same kind of people as those who live on the other side of the Iron Curtain. But here they enjoy the freedom that a minority dictatorship has throttled in their ancestral homeland.

Here some 35,000 Chinese, freely belong to the Church. Here Catholic life is spontaneous and fervent in 17 parishes.

"There's a lot of Catholics in Hong Kong," was the surprised comment of Sgt. Bob Corak of Iron Mountain, Mich., before a visit from Japan. "Even on weekdays, I noticed it took two priests to give Holy Communion at Holy Rosary church."

SEVENTYSEVEN per cent of the pupils enrolled in Hong Kong Catholic schools are non-Christians. That is, the parents of nearly 15,000 boys and girls have chosen Catholic priests, Brothers and Sisters to teach their children. Actually a much greater number have shown this preference. Catholic schools here are besieged by more applicants than they can take.

Whenever a priest goes in Hong Kong, he gets a friendly greeting. The clerk in the post office, the shop-keeper, the schoolboy, the woman who sells papers on the sidewalk, the sickly beggar at the corner, all call him "Father" or the Chinese equivalent, "Shen Fu."

Florida Ministers Query Adlai, Ike On Prohibition

Miami, Fla. — (RNS) — South Florida ministerial groups have called upon the Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates to state their views on prohibition.

The Baptist Pastors Conference of Miami and the Full Gospel Ministerial Association wired Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gov. Adlai Stevenson:

"We believe that some of us can claim to be loyal to our great forefathers, to our nation, or to our families, unless we oppose the alcoholic beverage traffic with all our heart, in voice, written word, vote and in deed. Please tell us publicly what is your stand for ridding our nation of this deadly enemy that threatens to destroy our great nation?"

Filipino Seminarians Made Scoutmasters

Manila — (NC) — Certificates for completing the Boy Scout scoutmaster training course have been awarded to the first group of 23 Filipino seminarians.

Bishop Vicente Reyes Auxiliary of Manila was the main speaker at the ceremonies in San Carlos seminary in Mandaluyong, Rizal, and distributed the certificates.

The Bishop will also preside at ceremonies when the Ave Maria Cross will be awarded to Philippine Boy Scouts who have rendered distinguished service in the field of Catholic Adolts.

Japanese Jockets Tokyo — (NC) — Six new groups of the Young Christian Workers (Jockets) have recently been formed in Japan, thus raising the total number to 36.



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