

School Construction Hits All-Time High

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — School construction in 1952 has reached the highest level in United States history. A check of U. S. Office of Education figures — as yet incomplete for December — reveals that both private and public school building will reach an all-time high in final totals for this year.

Construction permits for the months of November alone represent building programs totaling \$109,681,465. More than three and one-half million dollars of this total represents Catholic school construction.

PUBLIC SCHOOL construction is now accounting for a larger percentage of the total construction outlay than it has in recent years. This has been attributed to the fact that state and civic governments, faced with the problem of getting the taxpayer's approval on school expenditures, are now more and more meeting a delayed need for expansion to provide for population increases.

Figures reveal that private schools — including Catholic elementary and secondary schools and Catholic colleges — began expensive building projects after the end of World War II. Construction figures in 1946 showed private school construction totals at \$123,000,000 — or 22 million dollars more than public school construction costs.

By 1951 the figures had reversed and public school construction totaled over one billion dollars as compared to the private school construction of \$339,000,000.

School enrollment made marked gains in 1950 and 1951. In 1950, schools throughout the country admitted 820,000 new pupils. The number of new pupils reached more than one and one-half million in 1951. Statistics indicate that enrollment increases are leveling off and may drop as low as 33,000 by 1956.

Average Age
When the Sacred College of Cardinals is brought to its full quota of 70 members with the creation of 24 new Princes of the Church at next month's consistory, the average age of its members will be 68.

French Assembly Raises Allowances To Church Schools

Paris — (RNS) — Church-operated primary schools in France will get about two million dollars more a year in State aid under a measure approved by the National Assembly.

The Assembly bill raises the allowance paid for each child of primary school age from 1,000 to 1,500 francs. The bill amends the 1951 Barange law which set up the allowances as a means of paying indirect subsidies to church-operated schools. The law provided the same allowances for children in State schools.

When the Assembly passed the 1951 law, it broke with France's 47-year-old policy of secular education and strict separation of Church and State.

Trappists Withdraw From Parish Work

Dubuque — (NC) — With the blessing this week of the Rt. Rev. Vincent Daly, O.C.S.O., as the new Abbot of the Abbey of Our Lady of New Melleray, there will be put into force a decision arrived at in the General Chapter of the Order of Cistercians held at the Abbey of Cîteaux in France, last September.

The change will also bring to an end a practice that extends back into the pioneer days in Iowa. For more than 100 years, the Trappist Fathers have had the care of souls in the immediate neighborhood of their monastery. Now they have been recalled from all parochial responsibilities by the highest government body of their Order.

Nuns Operate Girls' Hotel In Philadelphia

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Catholic nuns are now running the former Warburton Hotel here and taking the hotel business in their usual placid, but efficient, stride.

The hotel looks the same from the outside, but inside a sister, in solemn garb, will ask from behind the counter if she can help you.

BUT UNDER the new management by the robed Dominicans, the 11-story residential hotel has a new name, a new policy, a chapel where the junior ballroom used to be, and a recreation room in what was the Zodiac nightclub, on the street level.

Opened in formal ceremonies the hotel is now the Lucy Eaton Smith House, named for the foundress of the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Catherine de Ricci. She established the order in Albany, N. Y., in 1880. The sisters purchased the property for \$525,000 during the summer.

The hotel is already nearly filled to its capacity of 170 by young business and professional women and girl students ranging in age from 18 to 35. These are the age limits the sisters have set for their guests.

RESIDENTS will be under about the same restrictions as they would in a Y.W.C.A. or similar women's quarters, said Sister Mary James, the local superior, who is directing an administrative staff of six nuns at the residence. They will be permitted to see men friends in the several parlors that are available.

Benediction Rite Televised In England

London — (NC) — Televising of Benediction celebrated at St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham on Christmas Eve marked the first service from a Catholic church seen on TV in England.

Archbishop Joseph Masterson preached the sermon at the rite, and the cameras returned later in the evening for a brief meditation before the Christmas Crib.

FATHER OF 14 ORDAINED



"From the time I was a kid, I wanted to become a priest," recalls Father Patrick J. Norton, 70-year-old widower and father of 14, recently ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Father Pat, as he is affectionately called, (left in photo) is shown during ordination rite at St. Bede College in Rome.

Abp. Cushing Offers 'Protested Mass' On Historic Boston Common

Boston — (RNS) — Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston celebrated a pre-Christmas Mass on the historic Common here before an estimated 10,000 persons. The Mass — the first ever to be held on the Common — was part of a Yuletide program organized by city officials.

Several non-Catholic clergymen had protested to Mayor John E. Hynes of Boston against the holding of the Mass on the Common.

Originally a priest of the Paulist Catholic Information Center had been assigned to celebrate the Mass. However, when the protests were made public, Archbishop Cushing announced that he would himself be the celebrant.

In a sermon during the Mass, Archbishop Cushing appealed for "more men on every side

Atomic Plant Area Studied By Churchmen

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — The influx of workers to the four-county area surrounding the Atomic Energy Commission plant at Piketon, Ohio, will create problems calling for early and careful planning, according to Father Lucian Laerman, associate professor in the school of social work at Catholic University.

FATHER LAERMAN, a consultant on defense industry programs to the National Catholic Community Service, which is a participating agency of the United Community Defense Service, discussed the spiritual and social implications in the development of industrial boom-towns at two meetings.

The conferences — one in Columbus and the other in Portsmouth, on the Kentucky border — were held at the direction of Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus to outline plans for spiritual, social and educational facilities for families moving into the atomic development area.

PRESIDING AT the meetings was Father William Kappes, diocesan director of charities and hospitals, who pointed out that the present population of 100,000 in the four counties is expected to double.

He said that 50 per cent of the present population is Catholic, and that a mission cared for by St. Mary's parish, Chillicothe, is the only Catholic church in Pike County, where the new plant is situated. A much larger proportion of the new arrivals in the area is expected to be Catholic.

Father Laerman stressed the impact on a mushrooming community of housing shortages, and inadequate water supplies, sewage facilities and roads, creating crowded and dangerous traffic.

Priest Appointed Labor Mediator

Racine, Wis. — (NC) — Father S. V. Labaj was named mediator in a 14-week strike of 800 CIO United Auto Workers at the Modine Manufacturing Company here.

British Government Embarrassed By Tito Outburst At Vatican

London — (NC) — Marshal Tito's decision to break off diplomatic relations with the Vatican has increased the British Government's dilemma over its decision to invite the Yugoslavian dictator to visit the United Kingdom in 1953.

Protests have been led by Catholic spokesmen, including His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. These have been backed in other influential Christian quarters, among them the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of the State Church of England.

Recent administrations, while not pretending to be particularly friendly to the Catholic Church here, have been realistic enough to appreciate the value of 4 million votes and have tried warily.

NOW, as Commonwealth prime ministers go home heartened by convincing London declarations of much-needed unity, the Churchill Government stands ready before the 25 million Catholics of the Empire to receive and fete as an official guest a man who has publicly emphasized his active hatred of Catholicism.

Tito's sudden outburst of temper, after sedulous courting by Britain and the United States, has come at a critical moment in the affairs of Western Europe. It is felt here. Repercussions, in Italy and elsewhere, may upset all the carefully-laid plans of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden — the man who invited Tito to Britain in the first place — for a solid western bloc along the Iron Curtain.

The British Foreign Office publicly expressed regret at Tito's decision this week.

THE BRITISH Government is always sorry to hear of relations between states being broken off. It added, "This is bound to increase difficulties in the way of their reconciling their points of view."

Representatives of all Christian denominations, led by Labor Party Member of Parliament Richard Stokes, a Catholic, have met in London and decided to send a delegation to Mr. Eden to ask him to make Britain's objections to Yugoslavia's religious policy "abundantly clear to Tito in as many cities while traveling of the depth of feeling in Britain with the Folies."

at the continued religious persecution" in his country.

SOME QUARTERS in London believe that Tito, in view of the dubious reception given to the news of his coming, may seek a face-saving way of avoiding the trip.

The visit has become a fringe-page national issue here with persistent speeches in Parliament, almost daily opinions by notable articles and letters to editors for and against the Tito welcome.

Boy Skating Star Wins Award For School Attendance

Philadelphia — (NC) — An award for "punctuality and attendance," has been presented to Richard E. Dwyer, 17-year-old skating star of the Shipstead and Johnson Ice Folies, by Brother Daniel Henry, F.S.C., principal of West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys.

Richard who tours the United States during 48 weeks of the year resumed classes at West Catholic, his Philadelphia Alms Mater, when the Folies troupe arrived here for its annual performance due to open Christmas Night.

The youth whose home school is Loyola High School, Los Angeles, Calif., has been attending West Catholic part-time for the last three years. He is scheduled to be graduated from Loyola High School next June, when the Folies troupe will be in Portland, Oregon. Because graduation exercises will be held on Sunday, Richard will fly to Los Angeles to be graduated with his class.

Young Dwyer who plans to go to college, attends 21 high schools in as many cities while traveling with the Folies.

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