

Observer Questions Eisenhower Choice For German Post

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Appointment of President James B. Conant of Harvard University to be U. S. High Commissioner for Germany has been received with mixed emotions.

For one thing, there are many who felt that this important post should have gone to a career diplomat. Others felt it should have gone to a civilian, as it did. All agree that Germany is a critical area in these times, and that the success and failure of our diplomacy there will go far in determining our future standing in all of Europe.

PEOPLE WHO know Germany, pre-war and post-war, are convinced that it is the religious tradition of the German people that will bring them through their present crisis. The Western World wants Germany to face up to communism, to protect its land and its possessions, to re-establish itself financially, culturally and diplomatically, to play its full part in the North Atlantic Organization.

These are extremely serious undertakings for the Germans, situated as they are on the very frontier between the West and the East. It is only the religious background of the German people, many feel, that will give them the strength to carry through successfully.

This, in the opinion of some students of international affairs, is something our diplomatic representatives must understand thoroughly. Not to appreciate this fact, they feel, will make American diplomatic efforts there incalculably more difficult, and maybe condemn them to failure.

General Eisenhower, in announcing Dr. Conant's appointment to this post, which everyone calls "vital," said the candidate was "eminently well qualified to fill it."

There are many who do not agree fully with the new President. They do not think that Dr. Conant is particularly well fitted to interpret American schools and the American educational system to the German people. This, despite the fact that he is the president of a great university.

Dr. Conant is one who, last year, was elected to a high position in the United States when he charged that private schools are divisive and that, to the extent that they

attract students, they are a threat to the democratic unity of the United States.

THIS, OF COURSE, brought an immediate and angry reaction from schoolmen all over the country — Catholic, Protestant, public and private school officials. School and Society, one of the most quoted educational reviews, said it was "a gross error to believe that the attainment of the ideals of democracy is dependent upon uniformity of educational institutions."

Some public school superintendents in various sections were quick to disassociate themselves from the sentiments "sparked" by Dr. Conant at the convention of the American Association of School Administrators.

Germany, like the United States, does not believe in a single, uniform, all-embracing school system. Its confessional schools, for example, are known around the world.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Conant will remember that, as U. S. High Commissioner, he is in Germany as a diplomat — not as an educator.

Obstetricians Give Thanks At Mass

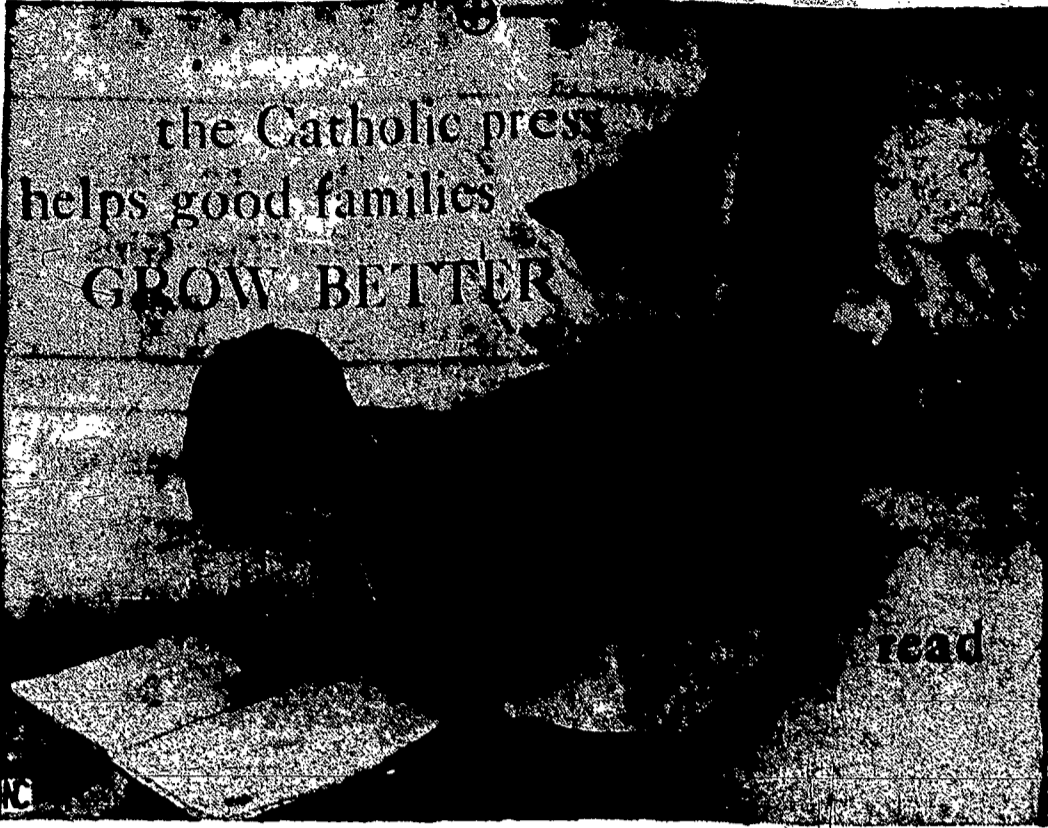
St. Louis — (NC) — About 40 obstetricians of all denominations at St. John's Hospital observed their fourth annual Mass of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for another year without the death of a mother in childbirth.

Not since January, 1949, has a mother died in the hospital's obstetrical department. Last year a record number of 2,478 mothers gave birth to babies there.

Father Edward T. Fook, S.J., rector of the St. Louis University School of Medicine, celebrated the Mass.

All that some persons have when a rainy day arrives are a lot of jobs they made when the sun was shining.

Catholic Press Month Poster



"The Catholic press helps good families grow better," is the theme of the Catholic Press Month poster issued by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada. February will be observed as Catholic Press Month in most dioceses. (NC Photos).

New York Public Schools Invoke 'God' In Hymn

New York — (NC) — Public schools here have been directed by the Board of Education to begin each class day with the singing of a patriotic hymn, in which the name of God is invoked, as an act of reverence to help strengthen moral and spiritual values.

AUTHORIZED TO be sung in the schools was the fourth stanza of "America," a patriotic hymn written 120 years ago by Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, then a student at Andover Theological Seminary. The stanza reads:

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of Liberty, To Thee we sing: With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

The Board of Education also instructed Dr. William Jansen, Superintendent of Schools, to review the curriculum to insure that it includes "appropriate programs of instruction emphasizing the spiritual interest and patriotic motivations of our pioneering ancestry; the devotion and

Parochial School Pupils Tops In State-wide Test

Cincinnati — (NC) — Grade school pupils in the parochial schools of the Cincinnati Archdiocese scored well above the state-wide average in the annual "Every Pupil Test" given recently.

Prepared and distributed by the State Board of Education, the "Every Pupil Tests" are given in grades three to eight in English, arithmetic, and spelling, and in grades two to eight in reading.

Many public and private schools in Ohio make use of the tests. The middle score, or median, of archdiocesan pupils ranged as high as eight points above the state median in eighth-grade arithmetic, and seven points above the state median in seventh and eighth grade English.

In only one group did the archdiocesan median fall below the state median. That was eighth-grade reading, which was just one point below the state figure.

Bishop Pontificates In Ice Arena

Montreal, Que. — (NC) — Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated here on the ice of the sports forum, home of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. Mass was celebrated at the Forum's skating rink and the ice surface covered for the event.

N. Y. Catholic Charities' Stand Bans Birth Control Group From Council

New York — (NC) — The Welfare and Health Council of New York City has turned down a birth control group for membership because of the opposition of the Catholic Charities of New York and Brooklyn. The welfare council acts as overall coordinating and planning body for over 370 agencies.

IN TURNING down the membership application of Planned Parenthood Committee of Mothers Health Centers, the council noted that "Catholic Charities of the Dioceses of New York and Brooklyn and their member agencies are opposed in principle to a substantial part of the program and policies of Planned Parenthood organizations."

Since the Catholic Charities had resolved to withdraw if the birth control group were admitted, the council said, "the interests of the council . . . can best be served by declining the application" of the Planned Parenthood group.

At the same time, the council recorded that a majority of its board approved Planned Parenthood as "not being inconsistent" with the council's program.

IN RESPONSE to questions, the New York Catholic Charities issued a statement saying that a substantial part of the Planned Parenthood program is an encouragement of the practice of artificial birth control.

"As is well known the Catholic Church has always recognized and taught that artificial

birth control seriously violates the natural law of morality," the statement said. "Although we appreciate the good intentions of some who disagree with us, nevertheless the Church must oppose any violation of God's law."

"Under the circumstances the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York has decided that it would not be justified in cooperating with Planned Parenthood as a member of the Welfare and Health Council. Accordingly a majority of the Board of Directors of the Welfare and Health Council thought it best to decline the application of Planned Parenthood."

Catholic Charities went on to say that it was "gravely concerned" about secularism and the economic, social and health conditions which make family life difficult for many Americans.

"WE THEREFORE take this occasion to reemphasize the necessity of carrying forward and expanding sound, long-range programs which will continue to raise the living standards of the American families by enabling them to enjoy adequate income from their work, adequate housing, adequate schools and adequate health facilities," the statement said.

Planned Parenthood Ministers Protest

New York — (RNS) — Fourteen Protestant ministers and two Jewish rabbis joined here in calling upon the Welfare and Health Council of New York City to reconsider its exclusion of the Planned Parenthood Committee of Mothers Health Centers from membership in the Council.

All of the 16 ministers who signed the resolution are members of the clergymen's advisory committee of the parent-hood group. Dean James A. Pils of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine is chairman of the committee.

The resolution charged that the parent-hood committee had been denied affiliation with the Welfare and Health Council "solely on the basis of threats by Roman Catholic agencies to withdraw from the Council."

"The exclusion of an agency, otherwise approved by the majority of the Council, on the ground of intimidation by a minority pressure group, is an un-American procedure," the resolution said.

Bingo Bill Given Albany Lawmakers

Albany — (RNS) — One of the first bills introduced at the 1953 session of the New York state legislature would legalize bingo games for religious, charitable, benevolent and veterans' organizations.

The measure, introduced by Assemblyman Lucio F. Russo, Staten Island attorney, is similar to bills introduced at last year's session. The bills did not pass.

Minister Refuses To Marry Couples Wanting 'Childlessness'

Toronto — (RNS) — A United Church of Canada minister announced from his pulpit here that he would refuse to perform a marriage ceremony where "childlessness is to my knowledge deliberately desired."

The Rev. E. S. Laidlaw, pastor of his Howard Park United Church congregation in a sermon on "Godly Parenthood," said: "Marriage should not be entered into unless both parties to the marriage desire children."

He urged his listeners to "refuse to marry a partner who is unwilling to have children."

"Children are not the creation or the property of parents," the minister said. "We are co-workers with God, but we are no co-creators. God creates new human life through us by our consent and His power. Our new life in our care with certain directives."

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