

Lay Brother-Doctor Expelled By Reds As 'Hardheaded Reactionary'

Hong Kong — (NC) — "You are the most hardheaded reactionary in China."

That was what the Chinese Reds kept telling 43-year-old Brother Leo Stocco, of the Parma (Italy) Foreign Mission Society, before they finally decided to expel him from Chengchow in Honan Province, where for 17 years he had healed the sick and helped the poor.

ARMED GUARDS had to help the Brother as he hobbled through the streets to the train that brought him to Hong Kong. Weak and ill, he turned for a last, long, sorrowful glance at the people he had loved, and who, in turn, had loved and respected him as the best doctor in the city.

The Reds knew that Brother Stocco was a first-rate doctor — he was chief of surgery at the larger of Chengchow's two hospitals and had taught many medical students — but they were determined that he should renounce the Church and turn informer against his Bishop if he wanted to be left in peace.

Brother Leo's real troubles started when a patient died in one of the hospitals and the Reds tried to hold him responsible. Fellow doctors defended the Italian-born missionary, but in vain. On May 19, 1952, Brother Leo was arrested and thrown into jail. Simultaneously the charges against him were changed to sabotaging the formation of the "Independent Church" and belonging to the outlawed Legion of Mary.

For five hours a day for eight months, Brother Leo was subjected to communist indoctrination. On one occasion, the instructor was trying to prove that man came from the monkeys. Brother Leo interrupted to ask:

"Was your mother a monkey?" "You are a stubborn reactionary," the speaker shouted and ordered the missionary to be shackled. For two weeks he remained manacled and helpless. The poor food and the tightness of his bonds caused Brother Leo to become ill and to lose the use of his legs. That he was

finally given better fare and released from his shackles was due, not to motives of kindness but to the fact that there were many sick among the prison's 1,300 who needed his expert care. Brother Leo had to be helped from his own sick bed to succor his ailing fellow-prisoners. But the results were so good that soon the communists asked that he treat their sick, too. Next the sick from outside were brought in to be healed by the Brother-doctor.

MANY TIMES the communists told Brother Leo: "If you would only give up your superstitious religion or join the Independent Church and inform on your Bishop, we would let you work again in the city." Over and over again, Brother Leo shook his head, only to be cursed as "the most hardheaded reactionary in China."

One winter night the communists were so angered at Brother Leo's refusal to apostatize that they ordered him to be taken out and shot. He was marched out with armed guards to be executed, but instead, after having paraded him through all the streets of the town, they threw him into a much stricter prison, where he could scarcely move.

Finally a written document was placed before the missionary, which read: "I will change over to the Independent Church and will inform on my Bishop."

Again, Brother Leo shook his head. He did not suspect that the Reds were making their last effort to break down his resistance. Last Columban St. Columban, Neb. — (NC) — Father Hugh Sands, the last Columban missionary of the Diocese of Hanyang, China, was compelled by the communists to leave his mission and arrived in Hong Kong, according to the Columban U. S. headquarters here.



Elizabeth Bentley Joins Faculty Of Catholic College

Grand Coteau, La. — (ENS) — Elizabeth Bentley, former Communist party member who became a convert to Catholicism, has joined the faculty of the College of the Sacred Heart here.

Mother Superior Lapeyre of the College said Miss Bentley will be an instructor in the Department of Romance Languages. Miss Bentley was a member of the Communist party for eight years before she repudiated it and aided the Federal Bureau of Investigation in uncovering Communist activities in the United States.

The College here is staffed by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart and provides a four-year liberal arts course for girls.

Miss Bentley was graduated from Rochester's East High School and attended Vassar College before becoming a member of the Communist party.

Former Premier Melbourne, Australia — (NC) — James Scullin, who in 1929 became the first Catholic Prime Minister of Australia, has died here after a long illness at the age of 76.

Red Jailed Chinese Priests Toll Mounts

Hong Kong — (NC) — The number of Chinese priests arrested and imprisoned in communist China continues to grow, according to reports received here.

Two priests — Fathers Luke Lu and Paul Tshia were arrested in the Kaying diocese, thus bringing to eight the number of Chinese priests jailed there. Kaying was the diocese of American-born Bishop Francis X. Ford, M.M., who died in a Chinese prison in February, 1952.

IN WUCHANG, Fathers Joseph Chow and Leonard Chen were jailed for refusing to join or cooperate with the so-called Independent Church. Meanwhile, three Chinese priests imprisoned in Kanchow, Kiangsi, are believed to have been assigned to "corrective labor" on a road gang.

Not only Chinese priests, but also Chinese Sisters, have recently been imprisoned by the Reds, the reports disclose. Sister Theresa Hsieh is serving two years of hard labor for refusing to accuse Bishop John O'Shea, C.M., of Kanchow, who was expelled from the country last fall after having been jailed for seven months.

IMPRISONED IN Hainan Island are three Chinese Sisters of St. Paul de Chartes, who were accused of "mistreating" children in an orphanage but never brought to trial.

It was learned also that two Italian priests, Fathers Brambilla and Carbona, were imprisoned in Kaling, Honan, for three days and then put under house arrest. Also jailed was a seminarian, who managed to smuggle out a letter to his classmates in which he said:

"Here I have many troubles, but I will never give up my Faith. You must all fight firmly against the communists."

BUDENZ ADDRESSES PRESS MEET



Denver, Col. — Louis F. Budenz, professor of economics at Fordham University, New York, was principal speaker at the 29th annual convention of the Association of Catholic Schools Press Relations at Loretto Heights College near here. The former Communist editor is shown chatting with two of the student delegates at the meeting. They are: Betty Murray (left), and Florence Connors, both of Loretto Heights College. More than 600 high school and college students from nine states attended the convention. (Religious News Service Photo).

Catholic Journalist Role In Present Day Cited

Denver — (NC) — The Catholic journalist has a special opportunity and obligation to carry forward Catholic principles into American life against the "time spirit" of the present day, Louis Francis Budenz told the Association of Catholic School Press Relations.

"The secular press in general presents an unintelligent and unintelligible view of communism. On the whole it dodges the nature of communism, evading the intention of the Stalinists to prove that God does not exist by creating an earthly paradise from which the Almighty has been banished.

"Without a clear grasp of this nature of communism, we are all at sea, without any efficient means of meeting it and defeating it. For it is from the falsehood of this first premise that all the horrors of broken pledges by Soviet communism follow. And it is this essence of communism which makes it fatal to seek appeasement of it or containment or any other accommodation with it."

Speaking to students from nine States at the 29th annual convention sponsored by the press relations group in Loretto Heights College, the former com-

Dr. Conant Pledges No Interference In Germany's Schools

Washington — (NC) — Dr. James B. Conant has pledged that he will not criticize or make suggestions regarding the German school system in his capacity as U. S. High Commissioner for Germany.

This assurance was given to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and preceded the committee's favorable report on the educator's nomination for the diplomatic post. Subsequently, the Senate itself approved the nomination in an action that had some elements of surprise.

SENATE ACTION on Dr. Conant's nomination came when only 10 Senators were on the floor. Two of these — Senator Francis Case of South Dakota and Henry C. Dworshak of Idaho — spoke against approval. They called the appointment "a great disservice to the United States."

The nomination was approved by a voice vote. The two Senators who spoke against it, voted against it. It was not possible to tell whether or not others among those present also voted against it.

Within 24 hours of his approval, Dr. Conant was sworn in as U. S. High Commissioner for Germany.

MEMBERS OF both houses of Congress received considerable mail voicing opposition to the former President of Harvard University for the diplomatic post. He was accused of favoring the Morgenthau Plan for the pastoralization of Germany, of taking a soft attitude toward alleged communist sympathizers on the Harvard faculty, and of being the foe of denominational and other private schools.

Dr. Conant's assertion that he would not attempt to interfere in German educational policy came during hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held on his nomination.

Under questioning by Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Dr. Conant agreed that as high commissioner he would not "express criticism of the German school system" or suggest that German state schools be reorganized according to his

Idea of democratic school organization. Dr. Conant made it clear that his views on American education are "not exportable." Educational systems in other countries are "quite different from our own," he said, adding that he treats these other systems "sympathetically."

THE QUESTION of the American public school and of tax money going to private schools "is a peculiarly American issue," he said. "Educational patterns are a product of each country. The problem does not exist in Germany."

Dr. Conant said that his controversial opinions on American private schools involve only the United States and "would have no overtones in Germany."

He said he expected no criticism from Germany on his views on private denominational schools in America. In past speeches on the school issue, he stated, "I had no antireligious bias as to any religious denomination. I certainly had no anti-Catholic bias."

DR. CONANT also denied that he is in favor of a harsh policy toward Germany and that he had not backed the Morgenthau Plan as such.

Asked if he thought denominational religious instruction in tax supported schools was incompatible with the ideals of a democracy, Dr. Conant answered, "No."

Social Security For Clergy Eyed

Washington — (NC) — Ministers of religion could receive old-age and survivors' insurance coverage under the Social Security Act by treating the services they perform as self-employment, under the terms of a bill introduced in Congress by Representative Carl Elliott of Alabama.

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