

Blanshard Attack On Nuncio's U.S. Citizenship Role Refuted

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Neither a papal nuncio nor any other Catholic official in the service of the Church takes an oath of allegiance to a foreign power. This has been made clear by a number of Canon Law experts who commented on a petition made by Paul Blanshard in Dublin. The well-known anti-Catholic writer demanded that the U. S. revoke the citizenship of Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Papal Nuncio to Ireland, on the ground that he violated the McCarran law.

The only thing a papal nuncio or any other high church official is called upon to make is a profession of faith—similar to the Apostles' Creed recited regularly by all Catholics—and an oath against the heresy of modernism, canon law, officials point out. This profession of faith and oath against modernism are also required of such lesser ranking figures in the Church, as seminarians, professors and religious superiors, the canon lawyers note.

It was emphasized that this is purely a doctrinal matter and involves absolutely no civil allegiance.

A VATICAN Press Office statement said that Blanshard's petition shows a complete ignorance of the fact that nuncios have a specialized task which is exclusively in the religious field.

The Press has reported that Mr. Blanshard has petitioned the American embassy at Dublin to revoke the American citizenship of Archbishop O'Hara . . . who is accused of having violated the McCarran law by acting as a spokesman of a foreign power, the Vatican Press Office statement said.

Attention is called to the fact that Mr. Blanshard in making the petition has not taken into account the singular and very specialized task of papal nuncios which is carried out exclusively in the religious and ecclesiastical field and which does not require any civil allegiance.

Blanshard's Petition Hit In Irish Parliament

Dublin—(RNS)—Deputy Sean MacBride, former Minister for External Affairs, challenged in parliament Paul Blanshard's right to demand that the citizenship of Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Papal Nuncio to Ireland, be revoked. "To what extent," he asked External Affairs Minister Frank Aiken, "is it permitted for somebody enjoying the hospitality of this country to seek to cause embarrassment to our diplomatic corps or to our government?"



PAUL BLANSHARD

MR. BLANSHARD, known for his controversial writings about the Roman Catholic Church, had submitted to the United States embassy here a petition asking that Archbishop O'Hara's citizenship be revoked. He claims that Archbishop O'Hara, who is Bishop of the Savannah-Atlanta diocese, was violating the McCarran Act, which prohibits U. S. citizens from holding posts with foreign governments that require the taking of an allegiance oath.

Mr. MacBride told parliament that Minister Aiken may consider it proper not to say anything now, but I am raising the matter so that he may have the opportunity of dealing with it.

Mr. Aiken replied that the matter referred to by the former external affairs minister "is not worth noticing."

Blanshard states that an American citizen may lose his citizenship if he takes an oath of allegiance to occupy a post with a foreign power or joins the armed forces of a foreign power.

Neither Archbishop O'Hara, a 57-year-old native of Scranton, Pa., and former papal envoy to Rumania, nor any member of his staff at Dublin made any comment on the Blanshard action. However, another Church official in Dublin pointed out that the Blanshard petition incorrectly referred to Archbishop O'Hara as the representative of a foreign state. "The papal nuncio comes here from the Holy See and is the representative of the Pope, the successor of St. Peter," the spokesman said. "He is not the representative of the Vatican State. He represents the Holy Father and is the representative of a State but of a spiritual power."

Cardinal Spellman Gave \$25,000 For Flood Relief

New York—(NC)—A total of \$25,000 has been donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, for the relief of flood victims in the Netherlands, England and Belgium.

At a recent meeting in the Cardinal's residence, Baron Van Steenvijlt, Consul General of the Netherlands, accepted the Cardinal's personal check for \$10,000 for the Holland Flood Relief, Inc., as well as an additional check for \$5,000 from the Raskob Foundation which the Baron will transmit to the Archbishop of Utrecht for distribution in the stricken areas of Holland.

A third check, for \$5,000, was accepted by Sir Henry Hobson, British Consul General in New York, for the sufferers in Great Britain, and \$5,000 was received by the Honorable Jacques de Thier, Belgian Consul General in New York for the aid of his countrymen.

Football Game Reported In Latin

Rome—(RNS)—A new quarterly magazine published at the Vatican will carry in its next issue what is believed to be the first report of a football game in Latin.

The magazine is *Latinian*, whose first issue appeared last month. Produced in the Vatican library's print shop, the quarterly is aimed at encouraging the use of Latin as a living language.

It is edited by Magr. Antonio Bacci, supervisor of Papal Latin documents and one of the world's leading Latin scholars.

Although only one issue has appeared, the magazine already has some 1,000 subscribers, two thirds of them in the United States.

Everything in the periodical is written in Latin. The second issue, due to appear April 1, will include a description of a football game between two Italian teams, one from Florence and the other from Lucerne.



Olney, Eng.—Mrs. Isobel Dix, 23, wears finish line as first place winner in the 415-yard flapjack-throwing race here, held annually as a traditional symbol of the beginning of Lent. She captured the world record for Great Britain from the U. S., but caused a minor crisis when she refused to enter Olney's Anglican church for the Shrove Tuesday service that has followed the pancake race every year since Olney started the event in the 15th century. Mrs. Dix, a Catholic, refused to take part in the service because this would be contrary to Catholic teaching. She sat on the church porch while the service was held.

Catholic Wins Anglican Pancake Race

Olney, England—(NC)—An Irish-born Catholic housewife has unwittingly won international attention in this English village.

She is 24-year-old Mrs. Isobel Dix, a five-foot, Belfast mother of two children, who made national headlines here by capturing the pancake racing championship.

Pancake racing is a traditional Shrove Tuesday event in Olney, but it took on a transatlantic character in 1950 when the United States town of Liberal, Kans., joined in. Liberal captured the silver skillet trophy in 1951. A HOENET's nest was stirred when Mrs. Dix stoutly defied a demand by Anglican (Church of England) Vicar Donald W. Collins that she attend a shriving service in his church. This service has marked the climax of the pancake race ever since Olney started the sport in the 15th century.

Mr. Collins, who had been responsible for reviving the pancake racing contest after a long lapse and thus bringing much publicity and business to Olney, had offered the winner a glass of water when she hurried over the finish line. Then he asked her: "Do you agree to observe the rules?"

The cheering of enthusiastic crowds subsided into stony silence as Mrs. Dix replied: "You know I am not allowed to attend the service." She was referring to the fact that she had converted to the local Catholic faith, Father Thomas Wallers of the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, and he had told her that as a Catholic she could not attend the Anglican service.

When Mr. Collins insisted that the service was an essential part of the event, Mrs. Dix agreed to compromise by sitting on the church porch while the service took place.

After the race, Mr. Collins told reporters he regretted the controversy, but was "satisfied." "In Olney," he added, "we are not dictated to by Roman Catholics."

LATER MR. COLLINS gave Mrs. Dix an inscribed Church of England Prayer Book. But the housewife announced, "I shall change it for a Missal." From Mrs. Hitchcock, wife of an attaché of the American Embassy in London, she accepted a pressure cooker from the people of Liberal, saying, "I shall keep that."

Mrs. Dix covered the 415-yard course in 1 minute, 7.2 seconds, a near world record. She was 1.8 seconds faster than Mrs. Blinnie Dick, 26, who led the field in the race's counterpart at Liberal.

Drive Opens For Chapel At Idlewild

New York—(NC)—A campaign has been started to raise \$25,000 for construction of a Catholic Chapel at Idlewild, the New York International Airport, said to be the largest and most modern airport in the world.

THE CATHOLIC Guild of the airport inaugurated the campaign at a luncheon in the Brass Rail Restaurant, here.

Archbishop Thomas E. Malloy, Bishop of Brooklyn, has approved the construction. Speaking for the Archbishop, Father Ronald Macdonald, director of the department of planning and building in the Brooklyn diocese, praised the more than 1,100 Guild members for their selfless piety and devotion to Catholic principle.

ROBERT O'BRIEN, president of the Guild, who also is the U. S. Customs Inspector at Idlewild, pointed out that New York was the focal point of air travel between Europe and the United States. He added that there are chapels at Logan International Airport, Boston and Shannon (Ireland) International Airport. "Mr. O'Brien also said that specifications for the proposed chapel, which would be open 24 hours a day, called for a rigid type, prefabricated building, 100-by-40 feet and would seat 256 persons. It also would include a small sacristy and a Guild room."

Archdiocese Aids Youth Programs

New York—(NC)—With an increase in the number of juvenile delinquents being reported by federal, state and city agencies, the accomplishments of the Catholic Youth Organization of the New York archdiocese in 1952 emphasized the important role that agency of Catholic Charities plays in pursuit of a four-fold program designed to channel young people's interests and energies into healthy, constructive activities.

In the field of sports, the NY CYO report for 1952 showed that 8,975 basketball players comprised one of the largest basketball leagues in the United States. More than 670 teams, representing 627 parish groups, played in 3,648 games during 1952.

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