

Wholesale Abortion Looms In England

London —(RNS)— A bill in Parliament which would liberalize the law relating to abortion was vigorously denounced here by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster.

Cardinal Griffin said the bill, due shortly for a second reading in the house of Commons, was "against the whole tradition of English law, of natural law, and of divine law."

London —(NC)— The Catholic Press drew headline attention here to the grave threat of wholesale abortion in Britain contained in a new bill due to come before the House of Commons on February 27.

About 200,000 illegal abortions take place annually in this country at present, it is estimated. The new bill, should it become law, would legalize most of these and encourage more.

It will practically leave the doctor free in any troublesome birth simply to destroy the child and it will give legal protection to unprofessional charlatans who make big money as baby killers.

THE DEBATE in the House of Commons is expected to revive the bitter "mother and child" controversy which raged in Britain last year as a result of misinterpretations of the Holy Father's declaration that the deliberate killing of a baby at child-birth is immoral in all circumstances.

The brief, drastic bill, proposed by Labor Party member Joseph Reeves, old school socialist, wants to add two clauses to existing regulations:

(1) That no person shall be found guilty of procuring abortion unless it is proved that the abortion was not done in good faith for the purpose of preserving the life of the mother.

(2) That no doctor who acts with the concurring opinion of another doctor will be found guilty of procuring abortion unless it can be proved he was not acting in good faith to prevent injury to the mother in body or health.

Procuring abortion is today a crime in Britain—though naturally the rare cases that come before the courts—are normally those in which the mother has died as well.

UNDER THE NEW bill any unqualified person, male or female, may—if in "good faith"—take any measures to procure abortion. Such a person need not have any skill or training. He

MANILA ARCHBISHOP



Manila—Auxiliary Bishop Rufino Santos of Manila was named Archbishop of that See by Pope Pius XII, succeeding the late Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes who died last October. Before becoming Auxiliary Bishop in 1947, he was private secretary to the late Archbishop Michael J. O'Doherty of Manila. (Religious News Service Photo).

Mission Societies Grow In Japan

Tokyo —(RNS)— Forty-eight Catholic foreign missionary societies have been established in Japan since the end of the war, it was reported here. They comprise 25 societies of priests and brothers and 23 orders of nuns.

Altogether there are now 101 Catholic mission orders in the country, of which 62 are communities of nuns—12 of them native Japanese.

Report Cites Gain Among Negro Converts

Washington, D. C.—(NC)— Negro converts made up 13 per cent of all U. S. converts in 1952, an annual report on Negro and Indian missions has revealed.

Negro adults received into the Church during the year numbered 8,563, it was reported by Father John E. Tenny, S.S., secretary of the Commission for the Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and Indians.

FATHER TENNELLY noted that only one per cent of U. S. priests are Negro mission workers; and that today three per cent of U. S. Negroes are Catholics as compared with only one per cent 25 years ago.

The secretary's report revealed that 461 churches and chapels are maintained for the particular benefit of Negroes. During the past year 15 new Negro missions and chapels have been established. These parishes and missions are served by 633 priests, an increase of 25 priests as compared to last year.

An approximate total of Negro Catholics in the U. S. is 420,590. The total indicates an increase of two and a half per cent in the number of Negro Catholics during the past year.

ENROLLMENT in special Catholic schools for Negro children is approximately that of a year ago—71,811. This does not take into account the number of Negro children attending regular parochial schools, the report said.

In the Indian missions "previous positions have been held and strengthened," the report said. Five new chapels and church and school improvements have been added during 1952. Missions are maintained on about 80 Indian reservations. There are 404 chapels for the special use of Indians.

Catholic Indian schools report a present enrollment of 8,085. Indian Catholics are served by 217 priests, 500 nuns, 82 lay brothers and more than 100 Indian catechists and lay helpers, Father Tenny reported.

Bishop McDevitt, Notre Dame, Ind.—The University of Notre Dame archives recently received six trunk-loads of the personal papers and belongings of the late Most Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg, Pa., from 1916 to 1935.

INDIA CHURCH LEADERS



Bombay, India—Archbishop Martin Lucas, S.V.D., new Papal Internuncio to India (left), is greeted upon his arrival here by His Eminence Valeriano Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay (center). Center rear is Magr. Viviano A. Dyer, Vicar General of Bombay. Archbishop Lucas, 54, a member of the Society of the Divine Word, has worked for many years in the African mission field and before his appointment was Apostolic Delegate to South Africa. Cardinal Gracias, the first native-born Indian Cardinal, was among the prelates recently elevated to the Sacred College of Cardinals by Pope Pius XII.

Chiang Invites Expelled Missionaries To Formosa

Taipei, Formosa—(RNS)— Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek expressed a desire here that Roman Catholic missionaries expelled from China by the Communists come to Formosa to "help prepare for the return to the mainland."

The Chinese Nationalist leader's invitation was voted in an interview at his headquarters with Bishop Thomas Niu of the Prefecture Apostolic of Klayee, Formosa, and the Rev. John T. S. Mao, director of the Ishih Catholic News Service and chancellor of the

Archdiocese of Nanking. The Generalissimo said he hoped that a great many more priests and nuns could be brought to Formosa because he would like to see religion established among the Formosan aborigines "who need our special care." He also said that he would like to see more Chinese young people sent to American Catholic colleges and universities for their higher education.

The Nationalist President inquired in detail about the status of the Church in Formosa.

Nun, Ex-Police Reporter, Goes To County Jail — On Mercy Errands

Superior, Wis.—(NC)— "Sister Riccarda Goes To Jail" said a headline in the Milwaukee Catholic Herald Citizen. And, sure enough, beneath the headline was a photograph of a nun behind the bars of Douglas County Jail.

Sister Mary Riccarda goes to jail twice a week—of her own choice—to give instructions, pass out literature, run errands for the prisoners and, in general, distributes as much kindness as she can. She thinks Douglas County Jail is a good place and the people in it are just as good as the rest of us—maybe better.

"SISTER RICCARDA is one in a million," Sheriff Elton Ekroth told Herald Citizen reporter Loraine Schak who tracked down Sister's story. "It's the first time to my knowledge that a nun has ever visited the jail. The men get to depend on her to run errands, write letters, contact their folks."

"Of course her first interest is religion; if they don't have any beliefs she tries to show them the picture. Her work definitely has its place in the jail."

Right now Sister Riccarda gives instructions twice a week to a man facing federal trial for the murder of his wife. Sister thinks he's almost ready for baptism. "He knows the answers to the first Catechism questions, 'Who made you?' and 'Why did God make you?' and that's a lot more than some of the free worldly respected know."

A MAN IN jail, Sister believes, has time to think, to regret and repent his sins, whereas the free man probably doesn't even realize he's a sinner.

Most of the prisoners in the jail are there for short periods of time for petty crimes—many committed while drunk. Sister Riccarda keeps track of them, tries to keep them sober and in a job. On the phone, according to writer Miss Schak, Sister often talks like this:

"If you go out tonight, I'll have every squad car in the city out. I'll look for you till I find you. Your friend is coming to pick you up for the AA meeting. You stay right there till she comes!"

SHE CAN handle such jobs because she was formerly police reporter for the Associated Press in Seattle, Washington.

The ex-prisoners' reactions are: "Sister, I'll never forget this." "Through kindness and instruction she has brought many fallen-away Catholics to the Sacraments. When they're ready, a priest comes to the jail to hear confessions and bring Holy Communion."

At present Sister Riccarda needs Catholic magazines, clothing and cigars for her charges. She teaches at Cathedral High School, Superior, Wisconsin.

Holy See, Syria Establish Relations

Vatican City —(NC)— For the first time, diplomatic relations have been established between the Holy See and Syria, according to an announcement in Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper. The announcement said the Vatican will establish an Internunciature in Syria, while Syria will establish a legation here. The text of the announcement read:

"The Holy See and Syria have established an exchange of diplomatic representations, with the rank of internunciature apostolic for the Holy See, and the rank of legation for Syria, confident that the friendly relations already existing will thus be greatly reinforced to mutual advantage."

Truckman's Will Helps Churches

Toledo, O.—(RNS)— Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish institutions will share in an estimated \$200,000 estate of the late William Auth, operator of a livery and trucking business.

The will provided bequests of \$10,000 to Mount Carmel Cemetery; \$5,000 each to St. Francis de Sales church and St. Vincent's and Mercy Hospitals; \$1,000 each to the Lutheran Old Folks Home, Lutheran Orphans Home, St. Anthony's Orphanage, Toledo Society for Crippled Children and the Jewish Home for the Aged.

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