

Catholic Statement On Gordon Bill Opposes Move For Easier Divorces.

The following statement was delivered by George W. Wamsamaker, New York, at the hearing before the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 1953, in the Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y. The hearing was held with relation to the Gordon bill which proposes that a study be made of the laws relating to matrimony and family relationships. Mr. Wamsamaker is a prominent Catholic layman in Western New York, and is President of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Buffalo and Past President of the Erie County Bar Association.

Statement of New York State Catholic Welfare Committee at Legislative Hearing on Gordon Bill To Establish A Temporary Commission To Study Laws Relating To Matrimony and Family Relationships

(The New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, representing the Catholic people of the State of New York, welcomes this opportunity to come before your Committee today to state its opposition to the bill sponsored by Mrs. Gordon, A. Int. 972, which proposes that a Temporary State Commission be established to study and recommend concerning "the problems created by marriage, the family, and related matrimonial matters, actions, and proceedings.")

The introductory section of the bill emphasizes the need for the preservation of the marital relationship and the family unit (emphasis added), and for combatting "wide-spread fraud, perjury, collusion, and connivance, which permeate matrimonial actions and proceedings."

With these commendable objectives, which are undoubtedly the motivation of many who support the bill, we are heartily in accord. There is, however, a marked shift in scope and emphasis between the objectives as stated in the introductory section and the duties the bill actually imposes on the Commission.

The overwhelming majority of the people of the State unquestionably deplore abuses in the administration of the law. We, for our part, along with any group of concerned citizens, are in a constant effort to strengthen moral values in political life and inspire standards of conduct in public life which would be a credit to our State.

It is the responsibility of the State to see that the law is administered in a manner which is just and equitable. It is the duty of the State to see that the law is administered in a manner which is just and equitable.

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commodate prospective perjurers. A proctor whose office would be that of a defender of the marriage bond, and whose main object would be to protect the public interests would supply the deficiency.

INCREASING THE grounds for divorce would not achieve the stated objective of the bill, namely, "the preservation of the marital relationship and the family unit." It would defeat it. The bill could have been drawn to invest the Temporary Commission with powers expressly limited to seeking means to preserve the family, reunite broken homes, reduce our rapidly climbing divorce rate, and explicitly excluding from those objectives the increase of grounds for divorce. That would have been a much different bill than the one now under discussion.

In answering those who would advocate "liberalized divorce" through the device of a Temporary Study Commission, it is incumbent upon you to consider the gravity of your decision. Many of the evils in our society, many of the social costs placed upon taxpayers of the State, have their origins in divorce and broken homes. Crime, juvenile delinquency, mental instability are only a few of the unfortunate results of a disregard of the essential permanency of the marriage union.

Today, we in New York stand able to meet the challenge of the disrupting influence of the divorce laws. Let the responsible officials of our State see that our laws with respect to marriage are obeyed in spirit as in letter, and let our people know that they are obligated to society, as they are to God, to preserve their marriage relationship. The good that will flow to us and to our children will multiply, and our example will be a source of inspiration to our sister states.

We urge upon you to accept this challenge and to vote against this bill as written to create a Temporary Study Commission.

Solar Study
Washington—(NC)—A grant of \$1,107 has been awarded to Georgetown University here by the Office of the Chief of Naval Research. The money will be used in the university's observatory for the preparation of two maps of the solar spectrum.



MEDICAL AID FOR THE AFFLICTED—An American nun-doctor in the Maryknoll Sisters' Clinic at Fusan, Korea, examines a child, assisted by a native nun, while an anxious mother looks on. Funds received from the annual appeal of the U. S. Bishop's Welfare and Emergency Relief Committee will make possible the shipment of sorely needed medicines and equipment for clinics in refugee centers throughout the world.

Medical Mission Nuns Assigned Oversea Posts

Philadelphia—(NC)—Seven Medical Mission Sisters, two of them physicians, the other nurses, have been given mission assignments by Mother Anna Denge, community superior who also is a physician, at the motherhouse here.

The seven will go to India, Pakistan, South America and of all places—Washington, D. C. THE TWO doctor-nuns are: Sister M. Perpetua, who has been assigned to the Sisters' new 300-bed Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and Sister M. Scholastica, a bone surgery specialist, who will join the staff of Holy Family Hospital at Mandar, India. Both previously served mission assignments in the Philippines.

Sister M. Bertrand of Syracuse, N. Y., who is a nurse, will join the staff of Holy Family Hospital in Patna, India, which also operates a Grade-A nursing school. Sister M. Joseph of New Britain, Conn., also a nurse, has hopes of reaching Karachi, Pakistan, before a new 100-bed addition to Holy Family Hospital

Irish Nuns Form Philadelphia Convent

Philadelphia—(NC)—A small group of nuns have come here to set up the first American foundation of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, a congregation founded in Ireland in 1824 to work in the African missions.

With the permission of Archbishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., of Philadelphia, the newcomers are planning shortly to open the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy as the first step toward encouraging more American girls to devote themselves to the work of the foreign missions.

Among the pioneers of the American foundation is Sister M. Phaeomena Fox, a native of Philadelphia, who sailed to Ireland to join the Sisterhood the same year that it began its work.

3,000 Girls Launch 'Crusade For Modesty'

San Francisco—(NC)—Decision of 3000 Catholic teenage girls to stage a mass rally against immodest fashions drew front page attention in one of San Francisco's daily newspapers.

The San Francisco Call-Bulletin announced: "3,000 S. F. School Girls in 'Crusade for Modesty.'" A by-line story disclosed that the girls, students of the city's 13 Catholic girls' high schools, would stage a "fashion project" March 8 in which a representative of each school will model clothes designed with an eye to modesty, style, and beauty.

LARGE PHOTOS with the story illustrated what the girls have in mind as modesty-plus-attractiveness. The event was given the title "fashion project" instead of "fashion show" because of its Lenten timing.

"This is more than just a show—it's a cause," said Doris Mustermann of St. Bridget's high school, chairman. "We want to demonstrate that clothes can be modest without being dull and stodgy."

The "NATION-wide drive, she explained, started several years ago as the "Supply the Demand for the Supply" movement. Miss Mustermann listed as its three objectives:

- 1) To prove that beauty, style, and modesty are synonymous.
- 2) To show that stylish, modest clothing is available for the asking in local stores, or will be made available.
- 3) To bring the modesty issue to the attention of local store buyers.

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Offenders Ordered To Attend Church

Candlen, N. J. (RNS)—Two Atlantic City men who pleaded guilty to operating a still were ordered by Federal Judge Thomas M. Madden here to attend church every week for five years, or go to jail. Judge Madden also imposed \$300 "civil penalties" on the two

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