

# Bare Majority Given Democratic Forces

By HENRY J. SULLIVAN

Rome—(NC)—As the Italian election campaign enters its final days, there is a general though not strongly confident feeling that the center bloc will squeeze through the necessary margin to win 65 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Under the new election law, the center parties headed by the Christian Democrats will receive 65 per cent of the seats if they obtain just over 50.1 per cent of the total vote in the June 7 election.

FOR A TIME there was pessimism even about gaining this majority. But sentiment has changed and cautious optimism is beginning to appear.

This corresponds to the past election campaigns in Italy where pessimism, if not downright panic, reigned up to a point near the election, giving way to relief and then optimism. In part, this reflects the good quality of the Italian voter who often indulges his personal grievances against the party in power during the campaign, declaring that he will vote against it. But he yields at last to an appeal to the larger issues at stake.

Some of the issues which will be stressed by the Christian Democrats are attributable to the dissatisfaction of many people with the way the party has run things lately.

ACCORDING TO many people, more than a few votes going to the Democrats and the (neo-Fascist) Italian Social Movement (MSI) will be protested against the Christian Democrats playing party politics, and not projects of national democracy on their own.

It is expected that the vote will be large, possibly reaching 20 million. This is particularly true if the efforts made by the civic organizations and other groups of the center to get out the vote will overcome absenteeism. The center parties hope to gain by a large vote because the other parties are traditionally well organized and active in getting out their vote.

The campaign has been much less intense than in 1948. There has been less tension, less passion, less shouting and more reason. This is particularly true of the last week of the campaign.

## Italian Cardinals Counsel On Voting

Rome (NC)—Two of Italy's leading Cardinals have joined the long list of Bishops who have reminded Catholics of their voting obligations.

The latest counsel came from Their Eminences Clemente Cardinal Micara, Cardinal Vicar for Rome, and Alfredo Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan.

In a letter read in Catholic churches throughout Rome, Cardinal Micara said his people to vote "as Catholics and Romans" in the June 7 elections.

## Former Italy Reds Study Democracy

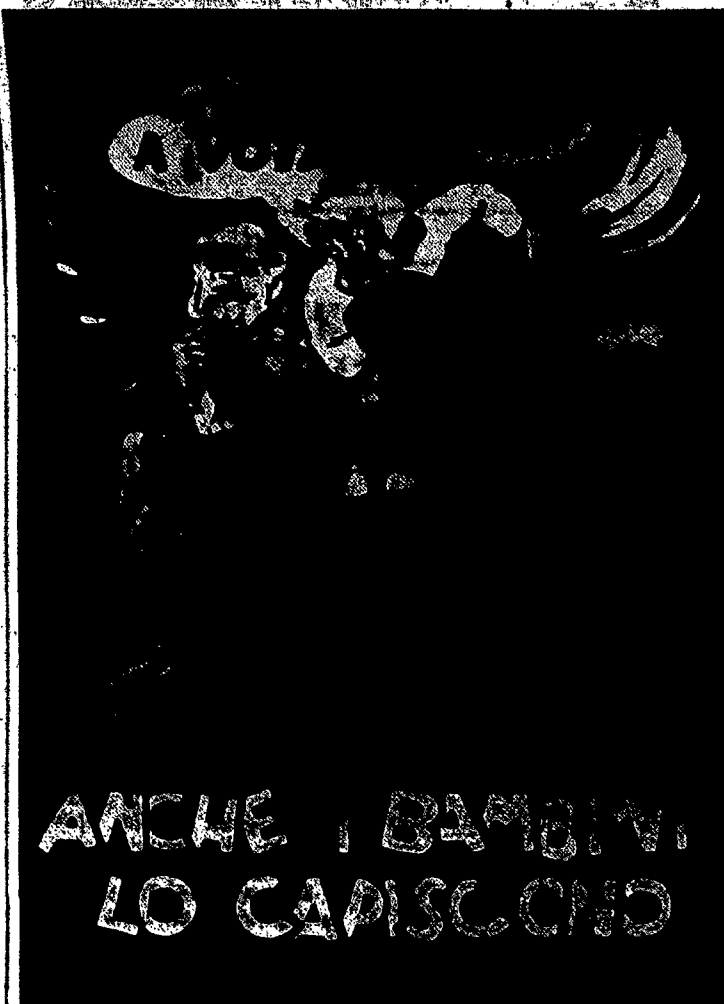
Rome—(Radio, NC)—A thousand former Communist Party members have begun a reorientation course conducted here by the Christian Democratic Party, the latter reports.

The group, mainly from southern Italy, is part of some 10,000 former communists who have left the Red party, Christian Democratic spokesmen said. These Italians left the Communist party, it was stated, after they had seen what the center government parties did in the way of land reform in southern Italy.

Ugo Gonella, secretary general of the Christian Democratic party, told the group here that their main objection from the Red ranks derives from the belief that nobody ever abandons communism. He pointed out that they have had an opportunity to see the government's genuine work in their interests.

The committee course gives these ex-communists a chance to see the Christian concept of a democratic government.

## ITALIAN ELECTION POSTER



Rome—This poster has all Italy laughing even though the national elections of June 7 are quite a serious matter. It was produced by the Civic Committee (Comitato Civico) which was founded by Professor Luigi Gedda, President of Italian Action. "You have got to get out and vote," the youngster tells his father. "Why, even the kids know it," the caption concludes.

## Catholic Publications Cite 2 Million Circulation Gain

New York—(RNS)—Subscribers to Catholic newspapers and magazines published in the United States and Canada now number a record 19,798,262, an increase of more than two-and-a-half million over last year, it was announced here by the national office of the Catholic Press Association.

THE FIGURES are based on a survey of 578 Catholic publications, 27 more than the CPA listed in its official 1952 figures. The total for 137 Catholic weekly newspapers is 3,789,458 subscribers; the 438 Catholic magazines total 14,008,804.

CARRYING the highest circulation is a local Catholic weekly newspaper in the New World, official publication of the Chicago Archdiocese, with 147,312 paid subscribers.

Other circulation leaders among the weekly newspapers are the Tablet, Brooklyn, N. Y., with 105,533 paid subscribers; the Catholic Herald Citizen, Milwaukee, Wis., 102,220; the Michigan Catholic, Detroit, 99,738; and the St. Louis (Mo.) Register, 96,027. All are official diocesan papers.

# Vatican Paper Hits Aid To Communism

Rome—(RNS)—Osservatore Della Domenica, Vatican Sunday newspaper, reminded Italians that Communists and Communist sympathizers are excommunicated from the Church.

The warning, issued just before the June 7 Italian national elections, was in answer to a question, from a Communist. He queried, the paper said, whether all Communists were excommunicated or only those who "adhere to, sustain and propagate the theories of atheistic materialism."

IN ITS REPLY, signed by "a priest," Osservatore Della Domenica said that all who even approve "these theories which deny Christianity and the Church," in reality, "excommunicate themselves."

It said that those who call themselves Communists but do not advance such anti-Christian theories and sometimes do not know anything about them "are not excommunicated for this reason."

But, the paper asserted, by voting for the Communists in the elections a person "cooperates in the victory of this anti-Christian idea."

"Therefore," it said, "Party members and those who in any way favor the Communist Party are guilty of grave sin and cannot be admitted to the Sacraments unless they leave the Party."

Osservatore Della Domenica cited the Italian Socialist party of Pietro Nenni as "cooperators with Communism and said these Socialists "are as guilty of grave sin as are the Communists."

However, it pointed out that all Socialists are not Communist sympathizers.

"SOCIALISTS who do not profess atheistic materialism and do not fight against religion, freedom and private and public morality, as for example the English Socialist Party of Laborites, are not condemned by the Church," the Vatican weekly said.

The paper concluded with a warning that the 1948 decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office "is still valid for all parishes throughout the world."

This decree declared that Catholics who "defend and spread the materialistic and anti-Christian doctrine of the Communists" will suffer excommunication.

## Irish Cardinal Asks Unity For 'Historic Ireland'

London—(RNS)—Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has urged Irish Catholics to unite for the sake of their historic island.

"I am sure that Irishmen of all shades of opinion, with their innate sense of civility will join in good wishes to the young Queen who was called to the throne in circumstances of great personal sorrow," Cardinal D'Alton said.

"It is my earnest prayer that God may protect and guide her in her exalted office and that her reign may be the opening of a new era of prosperity for her people. All of us who love the old historic Ireland earnestly hope that during it we may see our country restored to its national unity."

## Red Delegates Refuse To Reply To Students

Washington—(NC)—Delegates to the United Nations from two Soviet Republics have rebuffed attempts by a students' club at Georgetown University, here, to elicit opinions from them.

The experience of the students was reported in The Hoyt, student newspaper, and has since been picked up and printed in the Congressional Record.

The International Relations Club of Georgetown wrote to the representatives of the Ukrainian and Byelo-Russian Soviet Republics at the U. N. to ask if they knew about the Smith Resolution in the U. S. Congress; if they favored the exchange of ambassadors between Ukraine and Byelo-Russia, which the Smith Resolution proposes; and if they thought that such action would be another step toward lessening international tensions. The IRC then sent a second letter, just to make sure. Silence again.

THE SMITH resolution takes cognizance of the fact that Moscow has held out Ukraine and Byelo-Russia as Independent Soviet Republics, and obtained for them separate memberships in the UN General Assembly, which gives Russia three votes there.

The resolution proposes that the U. S. take steps to send ambassadors to Minsk and Kiev. It is felt that here that Moscow would block any such attempts, but that this action would greatly embarrass the Kremlin before the world, because it would unmask the claim that the two areas are independent republics.

If Moscow should agree to the interchange of ambassadors, proponents feel, it would give the U. S. two more listening posts behind the Iron Curtain.

# Group Charges Persecution Of India Missions

Washington, D. C.—(RNS)—A group of American missionaries in India has charged that the Government of India is persecuting Christian missionaries.

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## Vatican Broadcasts To Iron Curtain

London—(RNS)—The Vatican Radio has begun broadcasting to Iron Curtain countries over a new and powerful medium-wave transmitter.

The new broadcasts have so far not been jammed by Communist stations. For some time past, all of the Vatican station's shortwave transmissions have been interfered with by 14 "jamming stations" set up by the Communists.

## Yank Armen Practice Faith On Korean Front

Seoul, Korea—(RNS)—Nearly as many returned Holy Communion as attended Mass, said Father (Capt.) Michael J. Finneran of his weekday congregations at the jet-flying 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing.

These weekday communions were not all pilots. Ground crews were represented, too. Hence, according to Father Finneran, it wasn't just a sense of daily danger that kept his altar rail filled. It was an appreciation of what the Sacraments can do for a man in all circumstances.

From 35 to 37 per cent of the jet pilots in his Wing are Catholics, he estimated.

Father Finneran, Irish-born priest of the Mobile diocese, has no trouble in plotting his altars to acts of charity. The Catholics donated from their pay to help a Korean priest rebuild his school.

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