

Dr. Adenauer Faces Strong Opposition In German Vote

Frankfurt — Some 33 million German voters will go to the polls Sept. 6 and elect a new Bundestag (parliament) of the Federal Republic of Germany. Eighteen million of them are women, and 3 million are young people who have never voted before. Their ballots will have a heavy bearing on the issues that are now in the foreground of international discussion.

The Christian Democrats, led by the 76-year-old Catholic Chancellor, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, and the Socialists, led by Erich Ollenhauer, are the principal competitors for the 484 Bundestag seats, for which a total of 4,040 candidates, representing 14 political parties, have been nominated.

Under the complicated German election law, one-half of the seats are to be filled by direct vote in the constituencies, the other half under a system of proportional representation, according to the overall strength registered by the various competing parties.

THE STRUGGLE between the Christian Democrats, whose leadership and following embraces both Catholics and Protestants, and the Socialists is far more intense than between any other factions.

The neo-Nazi Frings, whose activities seem to meet with far greater interest abroad than in Germany itself, is completely insignificant in its potential influence. The same goes for the Communists.

On the other hand, the conservative Free Democratic Party, which is represented in the present coalition government headed by Dr. Adenauer, and various petty and refugee groups seeking political representation may well tip the scale in the final outcome.

AMONG THE CANDIDATES, Dr. Adenauer is the outstanding personality. He is opposed bitterly by the Socialists who object to his consistent policy of close cooperation with the West and favor instead some sort of neutrality.

The Chancellor has addressed mass meetings all over the country and has been enthusiastically acclaimed by his followers. He has pointed out that, under present world conditions, a policy of neutrality is inconceivable for Germany. He has insisted that the reunification of Ger-

many—that is, removing the Iron Curtain separating Western Germany from the communist-ruled eastern zone—cannot be achieved unless Germany has the full support of the western powers.

The Kremlin, on the other hand, has made every conceivable move to confuse the issues and to make it appear to the voters as if a policy of neutrality in the East-West struggle offered the only way toward a solution of the problems facing Germany.

Rosary Tariff Rise Denied

Washington, D. C. — A tariff rise on imported rosaries was denied by the Tariff Commission here after a 10-month investigation of U. S. Rosary production and sales.

In ruling against a tariff increase, the commission held that foreign-made rosaries are not being imported into the U. S. in such increased quantities as to cause serious injury to the domestic industry.

A 1952 decline in sales for domestic producers was attributed by the commission to large stocks acquired by distributors in 1951 when the outbreak of the Korean war caused fears of shortages.

The commission made its investigation after two U. S. Rosary makers had contended that their business was being damaged by Rosary imports. They asked a return to the 1930 tariff rate of 50 per cent of declared value. Present tariff rate, established in 1951, is 15 per cent of declared value.

Cardinal Doffs Robes To Work



CARDINAL LEGER

Montreal — (RNS) — His Eminence Paul Emile Cardinal Leger, Archbishop of Montreal, doffed his clerical robes, put on old clothes and helped build walls for La Foyer de la Charite, a charitable institution in Montreal's east end.

Like other workers, the Cardinal brought along his own tools. He took meal breaks to eat sandwiches and sip coffee provided by neighboring merchants.

Cardinal Leger said he would continue to do such work as long as there were destitute people in his diocese. Many Catholics here have followed his example, devoting all or part of their summer vacation to building activity.

Reds Release Danzig Bishop

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — After having served an eight-year prison term, Bishop Karl Maria Splitt of Danzig has been released, according to reliable information received by the organization of exiled Danzig Catholics. No information is available as to the future plans of the bishop, whose diocese now a part of Poland, is administered by a vicar capitular, Father Jan Cymankowski.

Czech Studying Amnesty For Jailed Priests

By JUDITH LISTOWEL (N.C.W.C. News Service)

London — Rumors have it that imprisoned Catholic priests in Communist-dominated Czechoslovakia soon will be amnestied, although Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague will remain banished from his See.

These rumors have been encouraged by the fact that since last June, active persecution of the Church in Czechoslovakia has, to all appearances, been halted. Furthermore, there seems to have been a complete let-up in efforts by Red propagandists to alienate the faithful from their allegiance to Rome.

Almost since the beginning of the Communist seizure in Czechoslovakia, a campaign has been under way to weaken and enslave the Church there. Political expediency may underlie the present "truce" in the anti-Church war.

SPORADIC STRIKES, widespread absenteeism, discontent over the recent monetary reform, and over food and other shortages, may well have prompted the decision to minimize tension at least to the extent of ceasing to offend the religious loyalties of the majority of the people.

Early this year, Communist Party and government officials openly announced that their aim was to reduce the number of Catholics in Bohemia to less than half the population. They boasted, in fact, that this already had been achieved, thanks to what they claimed was the affiliation of some half million Bohemian Catholics with the government-sponsored schismatic "Catholic Action" movement. Since that time, however, the Red created organization of exiled Danzig Catholics has been released, according to reliable information received by the organization of exiled Danzig Catholics.

In permitting what amounts to a jettisoning of a movement that was to have been the nucleus of a new "National Catholic Church," the Prague government has inferentially conceded a major failure.

MARINES RELIGIOUS BANNER



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii — This tattered banner of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of Crusaders, Knights and Marines of Christian nations, carried by the Third Battalion, First Marines, during the battle of Bunker Hill in Korea is being brought to Washington as a treasured Marine Corps relic of the Korean War. Holding the unique banner is Capt. Howard J. "Spike" Connelly of New York, one of the battalion's company commanders at Bunker Hill now stationed here. It was embroidered, from a sketch, by children at the Star of the Sea Catholic orphanage in Inchon, Korea. The banner shows St. Michael crushing the hammer-and-sickle emblem of Communism beneath his feet. In 1952, the Third Battalion was dedicated to the protection and patronage of the Archangel and permission to use the banner in the field was given by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington. (RNS Photo).

Directory Cites Circulation Gains

New York — (NC) — There are five Catholic diocesan newspapers in this country with paid circulation in excess of 95,000. The Catholic Journalist notes the following figures reported in Catholic Press Directory: The Journalist, organ of the Catholic Press Association, also notes that on a national scale The Register through its national edition and 32 diocesan editions, has 772,879 subscribers, while Our Sunday Visitor through its national and 12 diocesan editions has 772,331 subscribers. The five papers with more than 95,000 circulation are: The New World, Chicago, 147,312; The Tablet, Brooklyn, 105,553; The Catholic Herald, Citizen, Milwaukee, 102,230; The Michigan Catholic, Detroit, 99,798; and the St. Louis Register, 96,027. In the magazine field the directory disclosed that the leader are: Columbia with paid circulation of 786,913; The Catholic Digest, 632,000; Extension, 563,349; and The Young Catholic Messenger, 511,931.

Catholic Influence Called Inadequate By Jesuit Scholar

Cincinnati, (NC) — Despite its numerical growth, cultural attainment and capacity for leadership, the influence of the educated Catholic laity in America "falls noticeably short of expectation," according to an Indian Jesuit scholar.

Father Herbert A. de Souza, S.J., giving the keynote address at the 10th national congress of the National Federation of Catholic College Students here, labeled the United States as a "rapidly paganizing society." Father de Souza said, however, that his was but a "visitor's impression."

The Indian educator, who traces his Catholic ancestry back to the days when St. Francis Xavier evangelized Goa, told the students that their fundamental responsibility is to become active, whole-hearted members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

"THE ALTERNATIVE" that presents itself, he declared, "is not, as some imagine, between apostleship and non-apostleship, but between apostleship and apostasy."

Father de Souza asserted that the "crowning glory" of the Catholic educational system is that "it takes the whole man — body and soul, sense, intellect and will — for its province, and molds him for the purpose of his creation. Almost alone today it provides wholeness, or integration."

The priest decried the fact that some graduates of Catholic colleges become either "brilliant apostates" or "pious drones," and said that the reason for their failure is that "they never did realize their responsibility to develop an integrated personality." While the schools must provide the means whereby students can achieve this integration, he said, it is up to the students themselves to recognize and use these means toward that end.

THE INTEGRATION afforded by Catholic education, according to Father de Souza, is on three distinct levels: within the student himself, who must be a well-ordered, integrated personality; in civil society, so that the greatest good of his fellow citizens is his highest goal; and in the Mystical Body of Christ, of which he must also be an integral part.

Germans Urged To Vote For Christian Side

Berlin — (RNS) — An appeal urging Catholics to vote only for candidates to the West German Parliament who will follow Christian principles was made in a pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Hierarchy of Germany.

THE APPEAL was read in all Western German Catholic churches and will be repeated in churches on election day, September 6. It was drafted at the annual meeting of the German Bishops held recently in Fulda. The pastoral letter asserted that federal states controlled by Socialists or Liberal majorities frequently show intolerance towards Christians and their demands and even manifest an anti-Church attitude.

"The Bishops said they had reason to fear that the representatives of such parties would try to prevent the Christianization of social and public life and attempt to confine the Church to the purely pastoral sphere."

"IT IS NOT only your fate which the new Parliament will hold in its hands during the next four years," the appeal stated, "if the longed for reunification with East Germany is effected we must offer our brothers a Christian homeland, and should a limited Europe be achieved it must be a Christian Europe."

"Think of your children and their future; the election will decide whether it will be a Christian or un-Christian future. The new Parliament will make important decisions regarding family and marriage reforms, youth, social, political and church relations. Christian voters must decide which candidate guarantees to make his decisions out of a Christian conscience."

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