

Family Allowance Seen Need In U.S.

San Francisco — (NC) — America may be more in need of family allowances than Holland, a Dutch government insurance expert said here.

"You have so many working couples," commented visiting Dr. Gijbertus A.A.M. Boot. "With double salaries in some homes, the discrepancy in family income is immediately noticeable, even to a stranger."

Dr. Boot is deputy head of the social insurance division of The Hague's Ministry of Social Affairs. A Catholic, he is also one of the leaders in Holland's flourishing Catholic trade union movement.

ON FAMILY allowances in his own country, the young Hollander noted that since 1939 Dutch fathers had been receiving wage subsidies to equate their buying power with that of childless workbench companions. He said wide Catholic support had much to do with passage of the Children's Allowance Act, as it is known.

A striking feature of Dutch family allowances, he pointed out, is the fact they are paid entirely by the employer, with no state funds involved. Even before 1939 some industries had a counterpart of the current system in effect, he added.

Social insurance in the Netherlands, Dr. Boot declared, is intended to "cover nearly all the eventualities of life" and comes mighty close to that ideal with coverage for old age, accidents, unemployment, sickness and health in addition to the family allowances.

All but accident and unemployment insurance are administered by industrial associations — employer-employee boards modeled to some extent on the industry councils proposed in the Papal social encyclicals. Accidents and old age coverage, now handled by the government, eventually will be turned over to the associations, also, the visitor said.

THE EMPLOYER takes the heavy financial burden under the Dutch insurance system. He not only pays all the family allowances, but 100 per cent of the old age and sickness levies too. The unemployment and sickness tabs are split by employer and employee.

Dr. Boot has a hefty set of statistics to toss at anyone who might doubt the efficacy of social insurance in making Holland a healthier, happier place to live. "We claim the world's densest population — 10,000,000 people in less than 16,000 square miles, much of it under constant threat of flooding. The problems of making a living are apparent in a situation like that."

"But since 1938 our exports have doubled, our production is up 50 per cent, and our industrial productivity is up nearly 10 per cent."

"Remember, too, that in the past five years Holland has absorbed 150,000 new workers in its industries. I don't think social insurance is doing us any harm."

'Voice' To Beam Christmas Story To Iron Curtain

New York — (NC) — Portions of the Christmas midnight Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral and messages from American religious leaders will be beamed through the Iron Curtain to Red-enslaved nations by the Voice of America during the Christmas season.

Plans call for the Christmas broadcasts in 34 languages to listeners around the globe carrying the story of the Christ Child to countries where communism vainly seeks to replace the star of Bethlehem with the Red Star of Moscow.

Voice of America microphones will visit families and churches to show how "old country" traditions of prayer and devotion survive in the American atmosphere of religious freedom.

For those living under communist regimes, the Voice will strive to recreate Christmas as they have known it in years gone by, with skilled religious leaders reading messages of hope.

Choirs such as the Cistercian Choir of Okauchee, Wis., and speakers such as Father Ignatius Smith, O.P., of the Catholic University of America, will take part in the broadcasts.

Cardinal Greet Czech Escapees



New York — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, greets a group of Czechs who crashed through the Iron Curtain to freedom in a homemade armored car last summer. Earlier, the escapees attended a High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Cardinal Spellman. Left to right are: Vaclav Krejclik, a former Czech soldier; Joseph Fisarick, a mechanic; Walter Hora, another Czech soldier; Cardinal Spellman with Vaclav, Jr., 6, and Eva, 4, children of Vaclav and Maria Uhlík (both at right). Mr. Uhlík, a machinist of Lima, near Filson, Czechoslovakia, who drove the vehicle across the Czech border, worked three years in secret to assemble it out of a burned-out British armored car, and scraps of metal, bolts and parts. The escapees, and the tank, are on a tour of principal American cities in behalf of the Crusade for Freedom, a project of the American Heritage Foundation. (RNS Photo)

Irish Song Writer Scores Critics Of 'Juke Box Religion'

Washington — (NC) — Critics who pan "the synthetic piety of juke box religion" will have to answer to a Boston Irish girl whose religious lyrics — she likes to call them "sermons in song" — come from her heart and are selling like hotcakes.

Kathleen Twomey, whose "Serenade of the Bells" in 1948 pushed religion into top spot on the hit parade, says religious songs are here to stay. "What's more she says, they've got a right to stay."

THE SOFT-SPOKEN song writer believes current popularity of religion in song reflects two things: "The general trend toward religion today; and the open-minded interest that has developed in this country." ("Mahop Sheen's radio and television talks have had a lot to do with that.")

"My friends — Jewish and Protestants — are interested in my faith. They want to know about the Blessed Mother, why I say the Rosary . . . If I can tell them about it in song I'm going to do it — and let others complain about 'juke box assaults on the ramparts of faith!'"

Present return of that tradition can't be chalked up to "juke box commercialism," she insisted.

"Five years ago if I submitted a song about the Crucifixion the publishers would have shuddered." Today her "Robe of Calvary" describes the crucifixion in such lyrics as: "Soldiers gambled for His garment While the sun turned dark above. But the men who crucified Him Were forgiven by His love."

The song rated number one with 1,000 public high school students polled by a Boston disk jockey.

"Religion has always been part of music and you can't strip it from popular songs," offered Miss Twomey. During a study tour on American folk music she

Enrollment Up In Colleges Report Says

Washington — (NC) — Enrollment in U. S. colleges and universities has increased by almost five per cent, but theological school enrollments dropped 10.8 per cent in 1939, the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare reported.

Enrollments in all higher educational institutions have shown an upturn for the second consecutive year with an increase of 102,417, the annual report said. Theological schools opened this fall with 3,344 less students than last year, a nationwide report showed.

WHEN IT CAME to students attending individual schools, for the first time, higher educational institutions showed a 65 increase, but the theological schools opened with 17.2 per cent less new students than last year.

In the report, theological schools include accredited institutions of all faiths which provide training for the priesthood or ministry.

The continued enrollment rise in colleges and universities was explained by Commissioner of Education S. M. Brownell, as due to educational benefits for veterans, the all-time peak of graduates from the nation's high schools and efforts to interest high school students in continuing their education beyond the secondary school.

The report offered no breakdown of Catholic college or seminary figures.

Politburo Sets New Struggle On Religion

London — (RNS) — The Czechoslovak Politburo, through its official organ, has called for a new struggle against religion and other "dangerous" hostilities, according to the Prague Radio.

Rude Pravo set forth the new line in a lead editorial printed as the Politburo met in plenary congress at Prague.

THE EDITORIAL declared that "all (Communist) Party organizations, from top to bottom, must take up the struggle against serious shortcomings in Party propaganda."

"Party propaganda," it said, "must do its utmost to consistently expose and destroy expressions of hostile ideologies . . . The most dangerous and most apparent hostile ideologies in our country are bourgeois nationalism, social democracy, Masarykism and religion."

Rude Pravo added that the education of Czechs in the scientific spirit demanded "an intensified struggle against religious superstition and prejudice."

"Above all, Party members who have still failed to rid themselves of religious prejudice must be given aid to overcome their blunder," it said.

"Party propaganda must clearly explain the problems of the scientific view of life and must expose the harmful effects of religion."

Medical Society Bans Euthanasia

New Haven, Conn. — (NC) — A unanimous resolution condemning the practice of euthanasia was adopted by the House of Delegates of the Connecticut State Medical Society at its semi-annual meeting here.

In their resolution the medical group included part of the Hippocratic Oath, which all physicians subscribe to:

"I will prescribe regimen for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone. To please no one will I prescribe a deadly drug, nor advise which may cause his death."

The resolution was described as a reply to a questionnaire sent to many of the members from the "Voluntary Euthanasia Society of Connecticut" which asked if the recipients would condone or practice euthanasia in patients suffering with incurable diseases.



An increasing number of communities across the nation are striving each year to emphasize the spiritual aspects of Christmas. In Milwaukee, this "Put Christ Back Into Christmas" slogan has been erected on the City Hall building each year. (RNS Photo)

ND Glee Club On NBC Network

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The University of Notre Dame Glee Club will present a program of Christmas carols over the NBC radio network December 18 from 10:30 to 11 p.m. EST. It has been announced by Daniel H. Pedike, Glee Club director.

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