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Mrs. Luce Confers With President



Washington, D.C.—Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, United States Ambassador to Italy and a prominent Catholic convert, confers with President Eisenhower at the White House here on the Italian government crisis. This marked Mrs. Luce's first trip to this country since assuming the ambassadorial office last April. Because of the Italian situation, she returned to her post ahead of schedule. (RNS Photo)

Pope Acknowledges \$33,000 Offering To Peter's Pence

His Holiness Pope Pius XII has acknowledged with "heartfelt gratitude" the 1953 Peter's Pence Offering of \$33,000 presented to him by His Excellency Bishop Kearney in behalf of the Diocese of Rochester.

The Holy Father's gratitude was expressed to Bishop Kearney in a letter received by him from Monsignor Giovanni Montini, Pro-Secretary of State to His Holiness.

The Peter's Pence collection in behalf of the Holy Father enables him to carry on the vast program of Papal charities throughout the world. The 1953 Peter's Pence Collection was conducted in churches of the Rochester Diocese on Sunday, June 28.

Monsignor Montini's letter reads as follows:

Bishop James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester, N.Y.
Your Excellency:

It is my honored and privileged duty to convey to you the expression of the Holy Father's heartfelt gratitude for the Peter's Pence offering of \$33,000.00 which you presented to Him recently on behalf of the Diocese of Rochester.

As Your Excellency is aware, the Common Father has been uniting in His solicitude for the material as well as the spiritual welfare of the vast flock which God has chosen Him to rule, especially of those who are most in need of help. In carrying on this mission of mercy, His Holiness has relied on the generosity and devotion of the more fortunate of His beloved children throughout the world, and to the Catholics of Rochester He has never looked in vain for support, for they have always been in the vanguard of those whose munificent contributions made possible such a vast network of Papal charities.

In assuring Your Excellency of His cordial appreciation of this latest gift from your Diocese, the Pontiff expresses the prayerful hope that the unflinching charity of Your Excellency and of your priests and people may receive an appropriate recompense from Almighty God.

As a further token of His grateful benevolence, the Holy Father cordially imparts to Your Excellency and to the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese His paternal Apostolic Blessing.

Gladly availing myself of this occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my high esteem and cordial regard, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,
G. B. Montini
Prosecretary

Decent Book Groups Annoy Publishers

New York — (NC) — Community groups that undertook newstand clean-ups last year were labeled "vigilante committees" in a book publishers report for 1953.

Committees of parents who worked to keep trashy books, magazines and comics out of the reach of their children were mentioned with "alarm" in a lengthy bulletin by the American Book Publishers Council, Inc. The bulletin purported to show that the majority of U.S. citizens were against any controls on what books dealers can display or sell.

DURING 1953, the report said, a series of moves against indecent publications threatened the nation with "compulsory conformity." The publishers stated, however, that by the end of 1953, "the tide of suppressive pressures seemed to be at least temporarily checked."

A statement from the Washington headquarters of the National Council of Catholic Men, on the other hand, said emphatically that "there is absolutely no evidence whatever of relaxation" by groups combating harmful literature. "On the contrary, the nationwide movement is growing, not only in numbers but in intensity," NCCM Executive Secretary Martin Work stated.

Mr. Work said that, in addition to campaigns now operating in cities across the nation, plans for decent literature drives are included in the 1954 programs of many additional groups in the U.S.

THE NATIONAL Council of Catholic Women headquarters noted that among the most active of its committees is the committee on libraries and literature. Reports from the field show an increasing awareness of the dangers of indecent literature and widespread civic cooperation in drives to rid newstands of salacious literature. Margaret Mealey NCCW executive secretary, reported. There was increased interest in civic codes, state legislation, and the Congressional investigation, she added.

The publishers' report also expressed "alarm" that action by local governments to stop the sale of indecent literature was "often based on lists prepared by members on one religious group."

Noting that the Catholic-sponsored National Organization for Decent Literature supplies the most widely used list of books classified as to their moral content, Mr. Work stated that the attitude expressed by the American Book Publishers Council in the report seemed "the complete antithesis" of a statement to NCCM by a representative of the publishers' council in 1953 that the council was in favor of citizen groups working to protect their neighborhood newstands and drugstores from the current flood of books emphasizing sex, crime and abnormality.

Churches Set New Record For Building

Washington, D.C. — American Churches set an all-time building record in 1953, the Departments of Commerce and Labor reported here.

A total of \$474,000,000 worth of new construction was started by religious groups during the year. This was an increase of \$75,000,000 over the \$399,000,000 spent in 1952.

Parochial schools and private colleges also broke records for construction during the year. Total value of new buildings and additions erected was \$425,000,000, compared with \$351,000,000 in 1952.

Private hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, and other institutions launched \$316,000,000 worth of new buildings last year as against \$394,000,000 in 1952 and \$419,000,000 in 1951. Since hospitals were not affected by the construction controls put in force in 1950 after the outbreak of the Korean war, no backlog developed in that field, as it did in the case of churches and schools.

Social and recreational construction by non-profit groups totaled \$163,000,000 in 1953, a record amount.

Polish Reds Bar 3,000 Priests From Duties

London — (NC) — The Polish Communist regime is preventing around 3,000 priests from carrying on pastoral work today, according to an estimate made by informed Polish sources here.

This Communist action, coupled with the devastation in the ranks of the Polish clergy wrought by the Nazis during World War II, the sources here point out, has led to a serious shortage of priests in Poland.

It is estimated that about 1,000 Polish priests are held in jails and concentration camps by the Communists. Another 2,000, it is stated, have not been jailed but have been removed from their parish posts and are not permitted to carry on any religious work. These priests are now living with relatives, these sources state.

Ban On Nun Garb Held Un-American

Frankfurt, Ky. — (RNS) — Kentucky's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wendell P. Butler, in a statement filed by the Attorney General in Franklin circuit court, argued that to bar garbed Roman Catholic nuns from teaching in public schools would be unconstitutional.

The statement was in answer to a taxpayers' suit brought by the Rev. J. C. Rawlings of Bradfordsville, Ky., a retired Methodist minister. Mr. Rawlings is president of the Kentucky Free Public Schools Committee, an affiliate of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

THE SUIT asked that the use of Roman Catholic nuns as teachers in some Kentucky schools be declared illegal. It also asked that state money be withheld from public-school districts in which nuns are teachers and from those where public-school buses transport children to Catholic schools. The suit held that such practices constituted a violation of the principle of Church-State separation.

In his statement, Superintendent Butler claimed that to comply with Mr. Rawlings' demand "would abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States and deprive them of liberty and property without due process of law, deny them equal protection of the laws, and prohibit the free exercise of religion."

'Sky's-The-Limit' Rules For Movies Alarms Justices

Washington — (NC) — A future in which movie houses could operate under a sky-the-limit rule is not a very pretty picture, Supreme Court Justices revealed in comments during a hearing on film censorship.

Sharp questioning by the Justices greeted requests by two movie companies that the nation's highest court strike down all film censorship as violating the constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press.

Standards by which censors evaluate motion pictures, however, came in for equally sharp questioning by the Justices.

The hearing dealt with two films—"M" which was banned in Ohio, and "La Ronde" banned in New York.

JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON was the first of the justices to express alarm over what would happen if the Supreme Court should establish the absolute rule that State governments have no right to control the showing of movies.

He painted a future in which "a man could set up a movie house opposite a high school and present a film on 'how to commit home-made abortions.'" When civil action was finally taken against the exhibitor, he could pay his fine, "go back and start in again with benefit of advertising."

"What is the remedy for the situation when all we can do is arrest, put on bail, try, and arrest again?" Justice Jackson asked John C. Harlor, counsel for Superior Films, Inc., distributors of "M."

Claiming that censorship of movies before they are shown to the general public was "on its face unconstitutional," Harlor told the nine justices that the Supreme Court had never approved prior restraint on the expression of ideas.

To that, said Justice Felix Frankfurter, he would borrow the Gilbert and Sullivan reply: "Well... Hardly ever." He reminded the court that "we have many restrictions on freedom of speech."

ANSWERING AN assertion by the Attorney General of Ohio, C. William O'Neill, that uncontrolled motion pictures can contribute to juvenile delinquency, attorney Harlor assured the court that film producers would avoid such dangers themselves because "they

are family men and they all love children." Justice Jackson dismissed the argument with a curt: "So do dope peddlars."

Attorney General O'Neill told the court that the major issue of the case was whether the nation is "compelled to permit any and all kinds of motion pictures to be shown at any and all times to all kinds of people without restriction."

He said that motion pictures offered a different problem from uncensored newspapers and books because of the visual and aural impact of films. Film producers have demonstrated their own awareness of the fact by setting up a code for U. S. Movies, he said.

ATTORNEYS FOR the movie-men, arguing that television enjoys freedom from restrictions, were reminded by Chief Justice Earl Warren that television stations are under the constant appraisal of the Federal Communications Commission which has right to refuse their license if the station does not meet with FCC requirements.

The Chief Justice also noted that television programs are cut off the air for profanity and indecency.

When it came to standards of judging films, however, the Justices questioned took a different tack. They questioned the "measuring rod" used by censoring boards to evaluate films, the varied decisions given by States on the same motion picture, and the exact interpretation of the word "immoral."

Speaking for the Board of Regents of New York State, attorney Charles A. Brind, Jr., said, "If anybody in the United States doesn't know what immoral means, I'd be greatly surprised."

He stated in his brief: "We think that if a state is without power to control a medium of expression when such medium is portraying adultery, seduction, fornication and prostitution, this country has indeed fallen upon evil ways."

The court has taken both the "M" and "La Ronde" cases under advisement.

Publicity Stunt?

Hughes To Revise Film, Seek Decency Code Seal

New York — (NC) — Producer Howard Hughes intends to withdraw the motion picture, "French Line," from distribution and to eliminate objectionable scenes, the Motion Picture Daily reported here.

According to the film trade newspaper, the RKO head will remove prints of the film from the St. Louis, Mo., theater, where it opened without a seal of approval by the Production Code Administration of the Motion Picture Association of America. He will then resubmit the film to the PCA which would mean elimination of the unapproved sequences, the paper said.

APPROVAL of the film would call for special action of the Board of Directors of the Motion Picture Association, according to Motion Picture Daily.

RKO has notified a \$25,000 fine for releasing the film without approval.

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis forbade Catholics to view the film under penalty of mortal sin. The Legion of Decency has not yet announced a classification for the movie.

According to some New York film production sources it is held that Hughes is now willing to cooperate on clearing up the film after receiving millions of dollars worth of publicity on it.

Bid To Kill Decency Code Rapped By Church Press

If moviemakers were criticizing their own production code to sound out public opinion, they got their answer last week. Across the country Catholic newspapers from Manhattan to Hollywood's doorstep spoke up to predict that if the code goes so will the audiences.

Catholic press reaction followed quickly reports that top men in the Motion Picture Association were planning to "modernize" the film producers' decency code and a demand by producer Sam Goldwyn that the Production Code be "brought up to date." Adding to the mounting concern was the revolt against the decency Code by producer Howard Hughes whose new film, "French Line," opened in St. Louis last week without the Production Code seal of approval.

The Tidings, official weekly of Los Angeles archdiocese, turned an eye to the nearby Hollywood hills and noted that "there is a foot a concerted effort to defy the Code and to mock the Legion (of Decency)."

The Tidings told the movie-men: "This foolish attempt is not only ill-conceived but ill-timed as well." People just naturally turn away from garbage, a page-one Sunbeam, Schick & Remington Shavers, William S. Thorne Jeweler, 211 N. 2nd St., East Hamilton, 5014—Adv.

Canadians Observe Immigration Day

Ottawa — (NC) — Across Canada the Feast of the Epiphany was observed in Catholic churches as Immigration Day. It was the first such observance in Canada.

In many churches special collections were made for displaced persons and pastors spoke on the significance of the Immigration Day observance. The special day, which centers interest on refugees in overcrowded areas throughout the world, was created in December of last year by the hierarchy of Canada.

In an Immigration statement the Bishops pointed out that in addition to being a social question, immigration "is a moral question subject to moral laws which should direct and inspire those whose duty it is to determine a policy of immigration."

Remember Anniversaries with flowers—Make her feel like a bride again, the excitement of her wedding day... that beautiful feeling your flowers will bring her from Blanchard Florist, Call BAKER 9494.—Adv.

Steps Taken In Ireland For Beatification Of Mother McAuley, "Mercy" Foundress

Preliminary steps have been taken in the cause for the beatification of Mother Mary Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, according to an NCWC News dispatch from Ireland.

The historical process initiating the cause was begun on the Feast of Our Lady of Loretto under a commission appointed by Archbishop John C. McQuaid of Dublin. Archbishop McQuaid secured necessary permission from the Holy See in November of last year.

The Sisters of Mercy have served in the Rochester Diocese since 1857, when they came here under the leadership of Mother Mary Francis Ward, one of Mother McAuley's closest co-workers.

THE CONVICTION that young working girls and women needed protection against temptations of the world, led Catherine McAuley, a wealthy Irish lady, to establish a home 119 years ago in Dublin "for poor women of good character" as well as a school for the children of the poor.

At the time Miss McAuley had no intention of establishing a religious organization. Her plan was, with the assistance of other charitable young women, to carry on an organized program of what is today styled "social service work."

The selflessness of her work attracted the attention of the Hierarchy in Ireland.

Soon she was urged to consid-



MOTHER McAULEY

er the establishment of a religious order. Once assured that the undertaking met with Church approval she and two companions began their novitiate training with the Presentation nuns.

After her training she returned Dec. 12, 1831 to her foundation in Baggot St., Dublin. This is the cradle of the first community of the Sisters of Mercy.

Within the short span of Catherine McAuley's ten years of religious life, 14 convents of Mercy were founded, 12 in Ireland and 2 in England.

A PHENOMENAL growth can be read in the annals of the Sisters of Mercy. By 1931, one hundred years after the foundation of the community, they were established in Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, and Channel Islands. Newfoundland, United States, West Indies, Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

To the Sisters in her first foundation Mother McAuley frequently declared: "I would rather be cold and hungry than that God's poor should be deprived of any consolation in

(Continued on Page 2)