

## Texas Sect Obscures Peaceful Work Of Other Non-Catholic Groups In Italy

Rome—(NC)—The sporadic and highly publicized difficulties of a Texas-supported religious sect in Italy is obscuring the fact that many other non-Catholic groups have been carrying on their work here peacefully for many years.

The new difficulties of the Texas sect, known as "the Church of Christ," occurred here in the Italian capital and at Leghorn. Police took a sign off the sect's building here and took into custody a minister of the sect in Leghorn.

AMONG THE non-Catholic groups who have been carrying on their work in Italy for many years are the Waldensians, Methodists, Seventh Day Adventists, Baptists, Anglicans, American Protestant, Episcopalians, Scottish Church, Evangelical Lutherans, Russian and Greek Orthodox and a number of Jewish communities.

Italian law and the post-war Italian constitution both guarantee freedom of religion and of religious worship, both private and public. However, one regulation still on the law books requires non-Catholic groups to obtain permits before they can start holding services.

The full details behind the removal of a sign from the "Church of Christ" building here were not immediately known. The Rome attorney for the sect, Giacomo Rossape, said the sect had obtained permission from the city licensing bureau to erect a sign. He stated that the sect had erected a large stone sign, and was then ordered by the Rome police to replace it with a smaller one. This the sect's leaders refused to do, and then the police removed the sign.

THE POLICE explanation is that the sect has not received the necessary permit for religious services and consequently still has no right to operate here.

Some spokesmen for the sect have blamed their difficulties on the objections of the local Catholic priest, Father Armando Bosio, pastor of Christ the King parish.

Father Bosio admits that he has been tried by the prevailing efforts of the U.S. sect in his own parish. He told of the high-powered well-financed propaganda drive of the sect and complained they were trying "to take my spiritual family from me."

The sect plastered the neighborhood with posters and conducted a mail campaign among the priest's parishioners. Sect leaders offered prizes for those

parishioners who would take the sect's correspondence courses.

It was at this point that Father Bosio went to the Rome civil authorities and asked them if the new sect had obtained a permit as required by Italian law. It was discovered they had not.

"PROTESTANTS HAVE been in Italy for a long time," the priest said, "and they have full legal status before the law, equal with Catholics. Italian law grants them this status when they have a sizable nucleus of members

and an accredited minister. But the twenty or so members or attendants at the Church of Christ building in my parish have never been large enough to merit such recognition."

A United States embassy spokesman told reporters that the Church of Christ incident appeared to involve an interpretation of an Italian internal law. He said that embassy officials had discussed the matter with Italian authorities and were hoping to bring about a peaceful settlement of the difficulties.

## 'Rosary Holds When Family Ties Don't'

Boston, Mass.—(NC)—"Be kinder than kind" was the advice given by a Catholic Hour radio speaker to parents whose children have married outside the Church.

"Nobody can approve what is wrong," Father Joseph E. Manton, C.S.S.R., said in an address called, "Keep The Door Open," "but a brutal, blistering condemnation of wrong isn't always the best invitation to return to right."

Advising parents whose daughter is "married to a bad marriage," Father Manton said: "Pray for her, be kind to her, visit her... Don't try to nag her back into the Church or drag her back into the Church. Just build the path by little acts of kindness and more kindness, and prayers and more prayers, and then perhaps at the right moment a simple word of loving suggestion from your heart may work wonders."

"If anyone really wants to run away from God, there are no ropes that will hold him not even heart-strings," Father Manton said. "But how often have I seen it, that eventually the stray, big sinner is quietly caught and gently drawn back in the loop of a Mother's well-fingered Rosary!"

## Freed Red China Soldier Cries When Meets Own Priest

Taipei, Formosa—(NC)—"Father, it's wonderful to speak again to one of my own priests!"

The words were spoken with deep emotion by a former prisoner of war in Korea to a Chinese priest who visited him in the army hospital near here.

He was one of a number of "volunteers" in the Korean war who were captured, refused repatriation to Red China and are now receiving medical attention here.

In his early twenties and a native of Peking, he was drafted into the communist army when that present Red capital was occupied. He heard since that the other members of his family have been killed. Tears rolled down his cheeks as he related these events in his "Spiritual Father," as the Chinese call priests.

Most of the more than 14,000 former Chinese prisoners of war are now quartered in three camps or "freedom villages" about twenty miles from Taipei.

## Waterfront Chaplain At 'Shape Up'



Boston—Father John T. Powers, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, South Boston (second left), has been named permanent arbitrator of all labor disputes in the port of Boston. He is shown with hiring boss Tom Kennedy (left) at a typical dockside "shape up" of longshoremen where work crews are assigned to handle cargo. Father Powers, 35, has been identified with the welfare of port workers since early last year when Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston asked him to take over the job of creating a waterfront chapel and directing it after completion. While the chapel was being built, the priest made daily visits to Boston's piers to get firsthand knowledge of employer-worker problems. He won the confidence of longshoremen by attending union meetings and becoming a familiar figure at the morning shape ups. Father Powers is the second Catholic priest to be chief peacemaker for port labor troubles on the eastern seaboard. The other is Father Denis J. Conroy, S.J., of Philadelphia. (ENS Photo)

## Priest Sole Arbitrator On Boston Waterfront

Boston—(NC)—A priest has been named arbitrator of all labor problems affecting the Boston waterfront—a position without precedent in the history of the Port of Boston.

Choice of three locals of the Independent International Longshoremen's Association and the Boston Shipping Association, Father John T. Powers, 35, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, South Boston, and director of the harbor chapel of Our Lady of Good Voyages, was appointed after a meeting with the board of governors of the shippers' group.

OFFICIALS OF THE Shipping Association and the Longshoremen's Association said the position was created in an effort by labor and management to end work stoppages in the Port of Boston which have seriously affected the movement of ships and cargo.

Father Powers, for some time the waterfront chaplain by adoption, becomes the second Catho-

liconception of waterfront workers being known as "toughs".

The union and management in augmented what they termed "the best contract among all the East Coast deep-water ports," which Father Powers said will banish a feeling of insecurity the men had in the past.

## Ruanda Boasts Native Sisterhood

Ruanda, Belgian Congo—(NC)—Benehikira is the name of a congregation of native nuns in Ruanda that now has more than 200 members, 38 of whom have taken perpetual vows. The sisterhood has 21 houses and conducts ten schools. Some of the Sisters teach in other schools along with European nuns.

More than 100 novices and postulants are being trained at the sisterhood's novitiate in Save, a town of the Ruanda Kingdom.

Ruanda has a Catholic king who recently dedicated his kingdom and its two million people to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## Secret Police Hunt Anti-Tito Heretics In Church Ranks

London—(NC)—A Communist hunt appears to be in full swing in Zagreb, capital of predominantly Catholic Croatia, in an effort to ferret out secret enemies of the Tito regime.

Reports here speak of a "nightmare" that has fallen upon Zagreb with police raids on the homes of priests and of well-known anti-communist Croat Catholic families. There have even been interrogations of students at the Catholic seminary adjacent to the Archbishop's House in the Croat capital.

THE PURPOSE of the new police activity apparently is to uncover individuals in sympathy with the views of Milovan Djilas, the recently expelled Red leader. This one-time personal friend of Marshal Tito was dropped from the Yugoslav Communist Central Committee and stripped of other posts because of articles which Belgrade authorities branded as "heretical."

The police raids in Zagreb were highlighted by a search of the Catholic seminary. Seminarians were highly surprised when they were lined up to answer questions about their alleged relations with Djilas and with Vladimir Dedjic, author of the biography of Marshal Tito, "Tito Speaks," now also on the regime's blacklist.

One student reportedly told police that he had, of course, heard of both gentlemen, but that it was ridiculous to think that either Djilas or Dedjic, who were both anti-religious and anti-Catholic, would be on friendly terms with "humble Croatian theological students." While he was speaking, he was interrupted by a police agent who remarked, "not gentlemen but comrades."

WHEN THE police questioned the students whether they used to read Nova Misa (New Thought), a Belgrade review to which both Djilas and Dedjic contributed many articles now branded as heretical, the students admitted that their library regularly received the publication. But they added that it had been warmly recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Croatian Provincial government.

The police agents removed all issues of Nova Misa from the seminary library. Before leaving, they told the students it was

THE HOUSES of many parish priests in Zagreb also were searched and the priests questioned about the "heretical" former Red leader. So far as it is possible to learn, none of the priests was detained. However, many Catholic laymen known for their uncompromising anti-communist attitude were taken into custody, apparently on suspicion of being in sympathy with Djilas and of planning an anti-Tito plot.

Victims of the Zagreb purge are said to have included even stalwart communists who belonged to the new communist aristocratic class, made up of those who fought in the partisan forces during the German occupation. It was feared that at least seven prominent communist leaders committed suicide in their homes within a two-week period after hearing the ominous knock of the secret police at their doors.

The Djilas affair has apparently resulted in a crisis among the rank and file of the Communist party in Yugoslavia and signs of the weakness of the regime have been accumulating. The Djilas "heresy" disclosed there are dissensions in the highest places in the Red leadership, and a process of demoralization inside the party has come as a natural result.

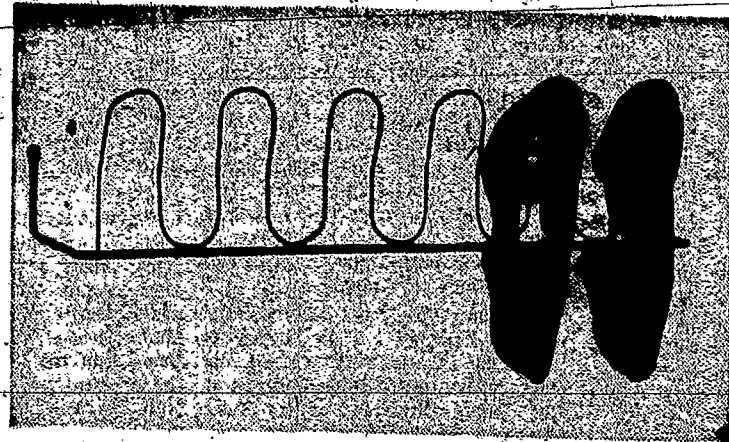
## 23 Catholics In British Commons

London—(NC)—The British House of Commons now has 23 Catholics among its 235 members. The 23rd is Patrick Wall, who won his seat at a recent by-election at Hull, England, east coast port. Mr. Wall, 37, is a supporter of Sir Winston Churchill's Conservative Party. Most of the Catholic M.P.'s are not 14 belong to the opposition Labor Party, and two represent Irish nationalist interests.



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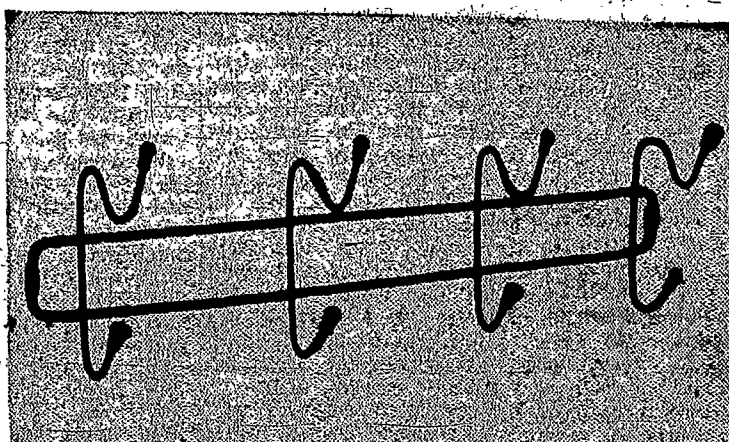
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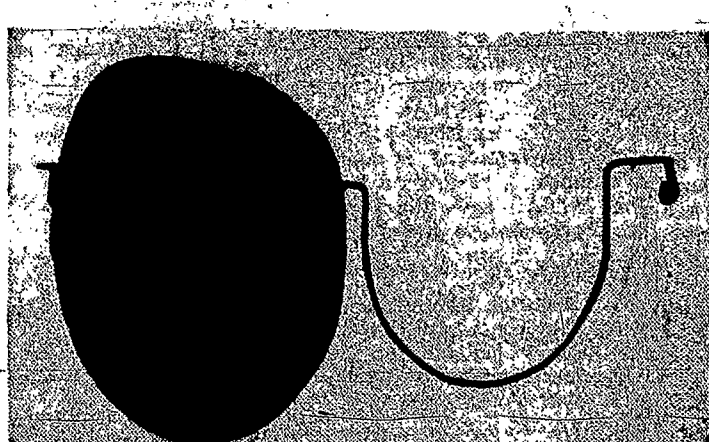
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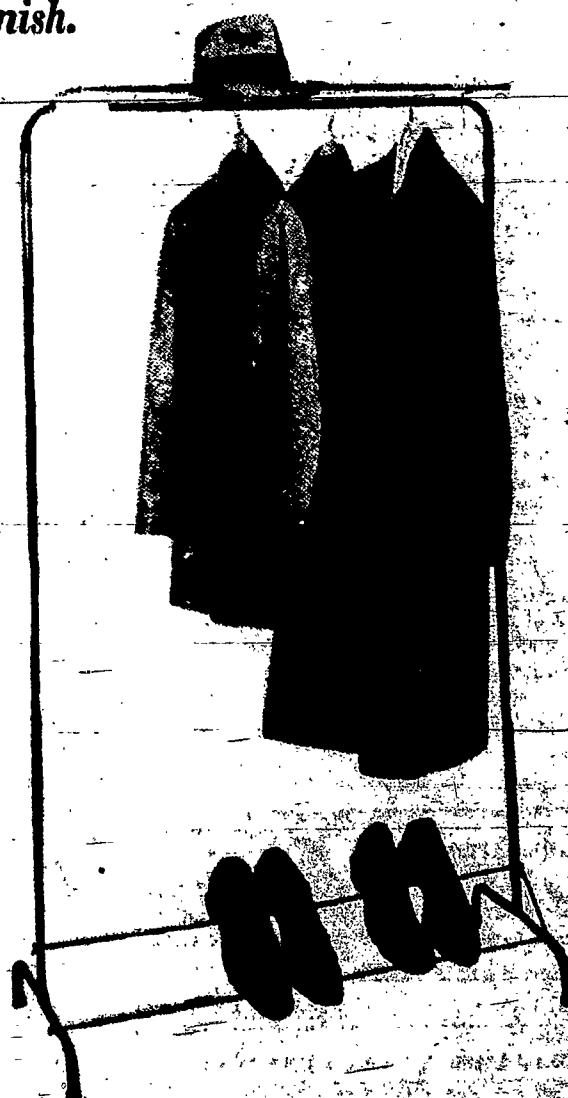
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