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For the past several years a number of mon Catholic press organizations most notable of which has been the News Service of the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia-have printed detailed charges of persecution of their churches by Catholics. The following article offers information pertiment to the problem for the better understanding of the Catholic reading public.

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

The National Constituent Assembly of Colombia-once postponed-may convene soon to decide whether traditional principles in reference to dissident religious minorities are to be re-established in Colombia.

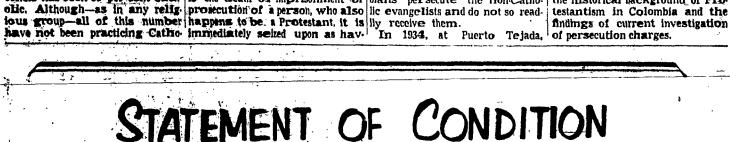
To be considered by the assem- lics, still Catholicism has become bly are proposals for two re- a part of the way of life of the visions to the constitution which Colombians, has placed its mark have for many months been the on their culture, on their governsubject of controversy, and which ment, on their total way of thinkhave been seized upon by some ing and living. Its people, there-Protestant publications as being fore, resent the fact that Protestant missionaries regard Colomevidence of "persecution." Whether the proposed amend bia as a backward, pagan land. ments will come to a vote, or how and go there to evangelize them. the votes will be cast, are still (2) Most Protestant proselytained at the present time. How. tizing is aggressive, and vigorever, there is currently much ously anti-Catholic. Presumably, discussion on these amendments to evangelize a Catholic country both in the United States and the sects involved feel they must in Colombia. attack Catholicism rather than THE FIRST of these proposals present positive Protestant teach-

provides that non-Catholic working. ship and activity be confined to (3) Violence which is admitted church buildings. Assembly in ly done in some cases to persons the open, in homes or in other and properties of some Protestbuildings, as well as the use of ant sects-though proven not to the press or radio for anti-Catho be as devastating as some would lic presentations is forbidden to have it-is done by resentful na-

these groups. The second, while tives or political groups. Because ing been done because the person, Province of El Valle, a group of allowing for private schools for they are almost all Catholic, what is a Protestant. In almost every Protestants seized a statue of the non-Catholic groups, states that they do as individuals is labeled increase the noncent of private and window of the protestant. instance the reasons are political Blessed Virgin, plucked out its "official education shall be organ as "Catholic." ized and directed in accordance (4) Protestantisma is automati. or are matters of the violation of eyes, hanged it to a tree, and set

with the teachings of the Roman cally associated with the Liberal an existing law. In most instan- it afire. There are accounts of a Catholic religion." party: Catholicism is usually ces too, for what ever reason ac- dozen more such instances on rec-To get a good picture of the identified with the Conservative tion has been taken, there has ord. situation in Colombia, one must party. Thus, differences between been provocation from the "perse-The forthcoming proposals of

be aware of several facts. the two parties are often called cuted" side. (1) For more than four centur. religious when, in truth, they are When some of the incidents of amendment to the constitution of les (long before the existence of political. the United States, as such) Col. (3) Almost always, when there clear why sometimes the Colom- light when considered along with ombia has been 99 per cent Cath is the death or imprisonment or bians "persecute" the non-Catho the historical background of Pro-



AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 30, 1954

Pen Used In Flag Pledge Signature



the words"Under God" to the pledge of allegiance to the flag is shown to parochial school children by Rep. Louis C. Rabaut of Michigan, sponsor of the resolution in the House. The pupils, are, left to right: Carl G. Powell, 10; Thomas Murdock, 8; and Norman L. Edwards Jr., all from St. Joseph's parochial school here. President Eisenhower gave the pen to Rep. Rabaut with a word of appreciation for sponsoring the resolution. Mr. Rabaut, who has three daughters who are nuns and a son who is a priest, said that he regards the resolution as the most important he has sponsored in 29 years.

the shrine of Our Lady of Guada lupe, here. Among those making the walk-Saldurg, Austria-(NC)-The ing pilgrimage, which took seven days, was the celebrated Mexican Prague communist government in the church wall bullfighter, Rafael Rodriguez, apparently aims at "settling the and his "cuadrilla" or retainers. 'Catholic question' orace and for

Pilgrims Walk

To Guadalupe Shrine

Queretaro walked the 150 mile

distance for their annual visit to

While on the road, the pllgrims all by driving faith ful priests heard Mass each morning at from their parisines and removing dawn, and, during the day, all Catholic activists from the prayers were recited an discus- countryside," according to a resions held at rest stops en route. port from Catho-lle sources inside The pilgrimages from devoutly Czechoslowakia. Catholic Queretaro have been

Mexico City -(RNS) - More Arrest More

held annually since 1888 to Gua. AN ESTIMATED 140 priests dalupe, where three days of spec. and more thar 3,000 Catholic ial ceremonies take place at the leaders are said to have been arrested during A pril and May. A shrine.

Last Jesuit Head In Shanghai Leaves

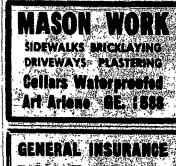
Hong Kong - (RNS) - The Very Rev. Ferdinand Lacretelle being arrested on trumped-up of Paris, last Jesuit superior in charges and p-lanted evidence. Shanghai, arrived here aboad a They are then forced, in the usual British freighter.

fashion, to "confess" their He was expelled by the Chinese "cr-imes." These charges range communists after having spent from accrusations of communiilmost three years in prison. cating with the Vatican by radio Father Lacretelle, who was named a bishop while in prison to attempts at taking the Fands away from farmers. but has not been consecrated, re-

fused to talk about his ordeal. Reports describing the arrest of Superior of the Paris Province of the priests state that Red police the Shanghai Jesuit Mission, he agents hicke American-made radio had been in China 27 years. tragnsmitters, grans and anomu-Five American Jesuit priests nition in the chauches at night. and one Maryknoll priest are still The next anominag they surround in prison in Shanghal. \ the rectory and begin to question

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, July 9, 1954

the priest about his "contacts abroad.告 + / 一致 · 注於 The priest's surprise at this charge—he is so isolated by Red surveillance that he does not even have contacts at home-is only exceeded by his amazement when the police "discover" the guns behind the altar or in some hole



mammoth "triaL" is expected to take place soorn at which the jailed priests will allegedly give Egbert F. Ashley Co. "evidence" of the hostile activities of the Vatican in Crechoslo-42 EAST AVENUE

It is remorted that priests are HAmilton 1856-1857-1858 Rochester 4, N. Y 1852 102 Years 1954

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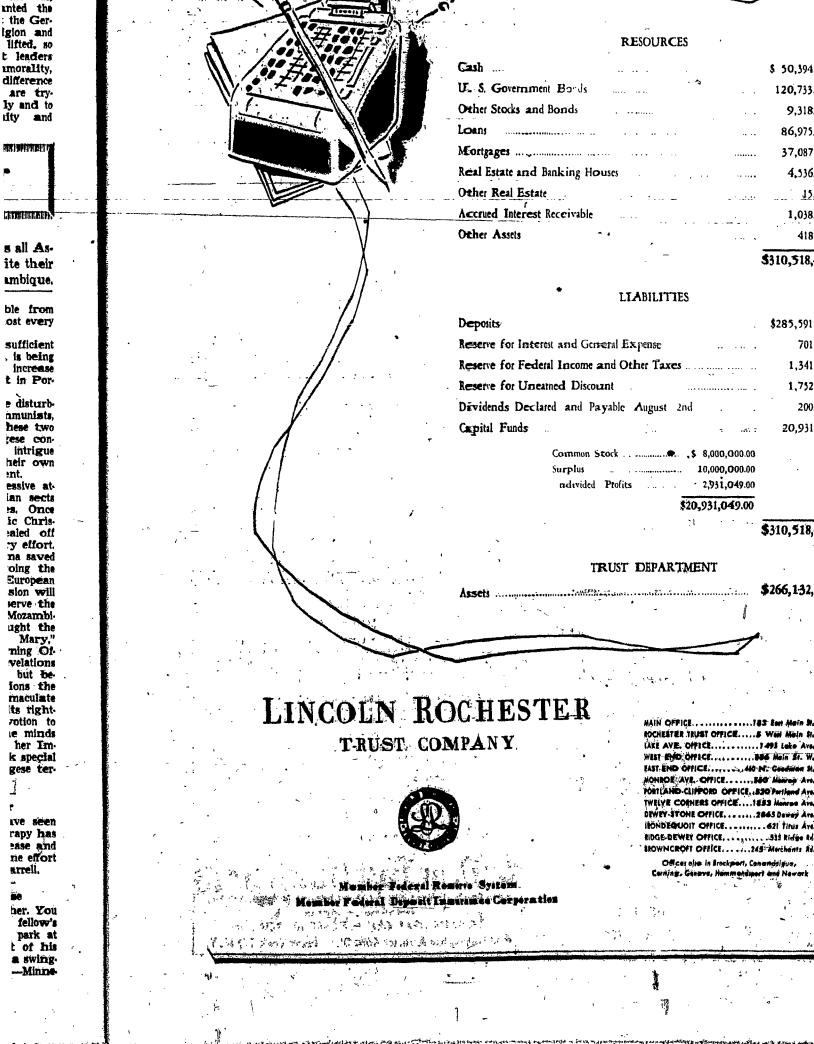
SUMMER STORE HOURS In-McCaurdy's Northgate Store

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