

Wearing Nun Garb In Public Schools OK, Judge Rules

Frankfort, Ky.—(NC)—There is nothing unconstitutional about a nun wearing religious garb while teaching in Kentucky public schools, Circuit Court Judge W. B. Arbery has ruled here.

The decision was a denial of a petition filed last October by the Kentucky Free Public School Committee which asked that nuns be barred from teaching in the State public schools.

The suit was filed by the Rev. James W. Rawlings, 50, retired Methodist pastor of Bradfordsville, Ky., chairman of the committee which is an affiliate of FOAU (Protestants and Other Americans United For Separation of Church and State).

THE SUIT WAS directed against State Superintendent of Education Wendell P. Butler and against six county school boards which employ nuns as public school teachers. The right of the nuns to wear religious garb while teaching in public schools was defended by M. B. Hollifield, Assistant State Attorney General, who contended there is no right to deprive anyone from holding public office because of religious belief and practices.

The case was tried on an agreed statement of facts which acknowledge that 84 nuns were employed as public school teachers by the six county school boards and that they wore their religious garb at all times.

EUGENE SILER, moderator for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky and a nominee for the House of Representatives in the eighth Congressional district, served as counsel for the free public school committee. The suit asked the court to rule that employment of nuns as public school teachers violated the Constitutional privilege of separation of church and state.

"We find nothing in the Constitution, the statutes or the Kentucky recorded court cases that prevent such teaching," Judge Arbery ruled.

Another suit seeking dismissal of nuns as public school teachers was filed recently in Franklin County Circuit Court here. The suit also demanded that Bradfordsville High School be reopened, charging that the public school officials who brought about the closing of the school

carried on a systematic policy of discrimination against Bradfordsville public schools "to promote the policies and purposes of the Roman Catholic Church."

'Modern' Order Of Nuns Starts In Pennsylvania

Mt. Pocono, Pa.—(NC)—A new order of Sisters, in modern garb of Oxford gray skirt and jacket with a white blouse and a "pillbox-type" hat, has accepted its first class of postulants here.

They are Sisters of the Divine Spirit, dedicated to fostering devotion to the Holy Spirit. Their founder is Father Lawrence G. Lovaski, S.V.D., a Divine Word missionary and author of spiritual books and pamphlets.

THE ORDER has tried to make adaptations to present-day conditions, problems and needs, Father Lovaski, of Sacred Heart Mission Seminary, Girard, Pa., said.

"The new dress is an answer to the Holy Father's plea to the Sisterhoods to simplify their habits. We think it will be most practical and suited for the religious and social program of the Church in the United States," he added.

The new order now is quartered on the property of the Bernadine Sisters, here who conduct the Villa of Our Lady of the Poconos, a retreat house for women. The site is about 31 miles from Scranton, Pa., and 100 miles from New York City.

After six months of postulancy and two years of novitiate, the Sisters will be assigned to teaching, catechetical or social work in the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., under Bishop Hugh L. Lamb. There were eight postulants in the first class.

Cousins At Bishop's Consecration



Washington, D.C.—Three cousins, all priests, participated in the consecration of Bishop Jerome D. Hannan of Scranton, Pa., in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here. Chatting with their Bishop-cousin are, left to right: Fathers Joseph M. Hannan of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Ralph M. Hannan of Mars, Pa., and John J. Hannan of Pittsburgh. The cousins have a friendly disagreement on how their last name should be spelled. Bishop Hannan was consecrated by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States (RNS Photo)

This Section Reserved

New Bishop Remembers Altar Boys On Consecration Day

San Francisco — (NC) — "Son, this section is reserved. Afraid you'll have to move."

From under a thatch of blond hair, the sturdy youngster leveled steady blue eyes on the usher. He replied politely: "Bishop Scanlan told us we could come up here to watch, and he said not to let anyone push us out."

That's how three brothers—ages nine to 15—gained one of the best vantage points in St. Mary's Cathedral here to see the Most Rev. John J.

Scanlan consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Honolulu.

In perhaps his first — if unofficial — use of Episcopal prerogative, Bishop Scanlan insured for Howard, Edwin and Jack McKee a close look at the colorful ceremony that elevated him to the Hierarchy of the Church. It was his way of remembering three boys who, for the past two years, have given up many an extra hour of sleep to serve his Masses as altar boys at St. Thomas More's Church.

Throughout the two-hour rite the youthful trio happily rubbed shoulders with news cameramen and reporters jammed into a small balcony that overlooks the Cathedral's main altar. At one point Jack, nine, poked his tousled head through an aperture in the railing to get a better view.

Their proudest moment came after the consecration. As Bishop Scanlan posed for the customary pictures in the sacristy, he spotted the boys and beckoned: "How about a picture together?"

Catholic MP Spurns Red Bid To China

London—(NC)—Anthony Fell, Conservative member of parliament and a Catholic, has refused to accept one of the many invitations now being made to British politicians to visit Red China, because "I will not dance to the tune of the communist anti-Christ."

He said Peking's invitation was merely an attempt to use members of his right-wing party, as well as those socialists who have already fallen for the bait, to worsen Anglo-American relations and to weaken the unity of the West.

"China is at present a puppet of Moscow," Mr. Fell added. "Moscow has recently announced a further drive to destroy all remaining vestiges of Christianity. I will not dance to the tune of the communist anti-Christ or the supporters of Moscow."

"Instead of gallivanting around communist countries members of parliament who go abroad would be better advised to visit the Empire and allied countries in order to strengthen our ties with all our true friends."

"Co-existence with evil is one thing. A display of friendship to those who aim to destroy freedom and who persecute all who oppose them is quite another. I will take no part in it."

Mr. Fell had earlier declined a similar offer to visit Russia because it continued to persecute Christianity.

Reds In Vietnam Tighten Blockade On Free Transit

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Hanoi, North Vietnam—(NC)—The communist-controlled Vietnamese have intensified their measures to prevent refugees from exercising the right recognized by the Geneva agreement to leave their zone.

The facts are notorious: in at least six provinces of North Vietnam. They can be verified by interviewing refugees sheltered in schools five minutes' walk from Hanoi hotels occupied by the International Control Commission. But the Commission, which comprises Indian, Canadian and Polish delegations, has been slipping its duty in regard to these wholesale violations of the Geneva agreement.

AT VANDIEM, the last French post, eleven miles from Hanoi, a French officer told me that the number of refugees coming through from the North zone had sharply decreased since early September. The peak was on September 11, when 4,000 came. These had been days on the road, meeting Vietnamese obstruction, but had reached Vandiem in spite of it. On September 20, there were only about 50.

I talked to a handful of refugees who had succeeded in turning the Red gauntlet and were now resting in a tent on the French side of the dividing line.

They said the Vietnamese were taking away all means of crossing rivers, were barring refugees from using road transportation, and making it hard for them to buy food along the way.

THE RESULT was that many aged persons, women and children simply couldn't finish their journey.

Some got as far as Phucy 28 miles from Van diem, hungry and exhausted, they could not attempt the last long stretch on foot. They had to turn back. Once a refugee decides to turn back, the Vietnamese suddenly make every form of transportation available for him.

I asked a man who had been of about one acre in Thanh Hoa province, if he had sold his land before leaving.

"The Vietnamese would not let

low me to sell it," he answered. "They would not allow me to sell even a chicken," a woman refugee said.

A Vietnamese Sister, superior of her community, aged 54, and gravely ill, needed treatment obtainable only in Hanoi. She succeeded in boarding a riverboat with four other Sisters on the morning of September 11. They reached Namdinh that evening. The Vietnamese, trying to block all Catholic refugees, kept her from continuing the journey until the 18th.

She died on the riverboat on the 17th, one half hour from Hanoi.

THE VIETNAMESE keep monks back from joining the ranks of other refugees who are ahead earlier from Hanoi.

The International Control Commission, responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of the Geneva agreement, has at last received written complaints about these violations, which have been going on for at least six weeks.

Nobody here knows of any action, any interview of available witnesses, any statement by the Commission that might indicate to the people it was coming to grips with the issue.

Druggists Pledge Newsstand Cleanup

Detroit — (RNS) — A pledge of support from Detroit's 600 retail druggists highlighted a rally here aimed at ridding magazine racks and newsstands of salacious literature.

The meeting was sponsored by the "Library and Literature Committee" of the Detroit Archdiocesan Council — of Catholic Women and the National Organization for Decent Literature.

Roy Dennis, executive secretary of the Detroit Retail Druggists Association, told the gathering that his organization had adopted a resolution urging its members to refrain from displaying or selling any publication of any objectionable nature.

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