

Socialists' Christmas Poster



Scranton, Pa.—A citywide campaign to "Put Christ Back Into Christmas" sponsored by the Society of Our Lady at Marywood College here was launched with the unveiling of this colored outdoor billboard. Present at the unveiling were members of the Society, Mayor James T. Hanson of Scranton (left); and William M. Lonsdorf, director of public safety. The billboard, depicting the Adoration of the Magi, is one of six to be located throughout the city. (RNS Photo)

New Church Construction Sets Record

Washington, D. C. —(RNS)—New church construction in November totaled \$39,000,000, a new record for a single month, the departments of Labor and Commerce reported. This was \$1,000,000 over the October figure.

THE INCREASE surprised government forecasters since construction usually declines during the fall as inclement weather settles on the northern states. Church construction for the first 11 months of this year amounted to \$531,000,000, already more than \$100,000,000 ahead of the record set in 1953, and six per cent higher than the forecasters' prediction of \$500,000,000 for 1954.

The November construction mark was \$13,000,000 above the best previous record for that month set in November, 1952.

Construction by parochial and other non-public schools also set a new November record, totaling \$33,000,000 compared with \$41,000,000 for the same month a year ago. November construction in this field, however, was \$1,000,000 behind October. But the seasonal decline was less than normally would be anticipated.

NON-PUBLIC school construction is over the half-billion dollar mark for this year, ensuring that an all-time record will be established in 1954. Total construction for the first 11 months was \$509,000,000, compared with \$386,000,000 for the same period of 1953.

Non-public hospital and institutional construction totaled \$29,000,000 in November, \$3,000,000 ahead of the same month last year.

Free China College Reports Conversions Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — Fifty undergraduate students of the National Taiwan University, the only university of Free China, have become Catholics in the past year.

Out of the university enrollment of nearly 5,000, there are 180 students in the University Catholic Students Association. In 1952 a group of Jesuit Fathers, headed by Father Edward Murphy, S.J., of San Francisco were invited to lecture by university authorities. Two other priests and three Benedictine Sisters from St. Joseph, Minn. are also on the faculty.

COLLEGE LAUNCHES FUND BID



Villanova, Pa.—A long-range development drive with a goal of \$1,250,000 for 1955, and a ten-year goal of \$8,400,000 was launched by Villanova University here at a dinner attended by alumni and faculty members. Chairman of the 1955 drive is former Postmaster General James A. Farley, who was guest of honor at the dinner (left). Shown with him is the Very Rev. James A. Donnellon, O.S.A., president of Villanova.

Farley Urges Businessmen Assist Private Schools

Philadelphia—(NC)—Businessmen were told by James A. Farley, former Postmaster General, that "we have a responsibility for supporting private schools conducted by religious groups for their contributions to the physical and spiritual defenses of the United States and the whole of western civilization."

Mr. Farley spoke at a dinner attended by more than 350 business and civic leaders, school and alumni officials and faculty members of Villanova University which marked the start of a 20-year building and development campaign of the university. The campaign has as its 1955 goal a sum of \$1,250,000 for a large student union building now under construction.

MR. FARLEY warned that the longer the U.S. is embroiled in the so-called "cold war," the more pronounced is the realization that material power alone is futile in the quest for final victory.

MR. FARLEY also said that while the public schools and tax

Jewish Group Aids Catholic School Suit

San Francisco — (RNS) — The American Jewish Congress has filed a brief with the District Court of Appeal of the Roman Catholic Welfare

upon which American democracy rests. "SECTARIAN EDUCATION is the very essence of religion. Contemporary religious practices, conceived both by the majority and by the congregants as encompassing far more than a system of devotional exercises. This latter linking of religious and sectarian education to the current theme in Jewish religious precepts. Indeed, the Rabbis measure the obligation of religious study as equivalent to all other religious obligations."

The American Jewish Congress is a religious, educational and cultural organization that works for the extension of the democratic way of life and the assurance of the fundamental freedoms of man through the elimination of all forms of political, social and economic discrimination based on race, religion, color or national origin.

They pointed out that the ordinance would prevent the construction of Jewish as well as Catholic religious schools.

"But beyond the narrow interests of protecting the rights of Jews to the unhampered religious education of their children," their brief said, "the American Jewish Congress has a broader interest in the present controversy."

"The American democratic system is based on the dual guarantee of separation of Church and State and of religious liberty. The Piedmont zoning ordinance constitutes an unconditional restriction on religious liberty and is, therefore, violative of fundamental constitutional principles."

Iron Curtain Prays For Pope

Vienna — (RNS) — Roman Catholics in iron curtain countries crowded the churches to pray for the recovery of ailing Pope Pius XII, it was reported here.

Although the official Communist newspapers and radio in the satellite countries did not carry a single word on the Pope's grave illness, the faithful kept informed of the Pontiff's struggle for his life through news reports broadcast over western radio stations.

How Reds Force 'Confessions'

Escaped Jesuit Describes Red Tortures

Washington (NC) — A story of harassment, arrests and torture was told here as a Hungarian Jesuit priest told the House Select Committee on Communist Aggression how the Reds suppressed the Society of Jesus in that country.

The testimony was given by Father Francis E. Toth, who escaped from Hungary in 1948 as a Jesuit seminarian and is now professor at the Brooklyn Preparatory School, Brooklyn. The testimony was based on the written reports of 49 Jesuits who had escaped from Hungary.

The priest disclosed that 29 Jesuit priests, brothers or seminarians had been arrested and jailed for periods of three months or more by the Hungarian regime. The latest victim was one Jesuit arrested in

June of this year on unknown charges.

The 65-page memorandum submitted to the House committee also described some of the

Tito Regime Frees Some Priests

Graz, Austria — (NC) — A number of Catholic priests of Croat and Slovene nationality were released on the 11th anniversary of the Communist regime in Yugoslavia, it was learned here. They were among the 3,000 people granted clemency by Marshal Tito's government to celebrate the occasion.

A Zagreb report said that eight Catholic priests and four Franciscans were released from the Lepoglava prison, and 15 others were reported released from the prison at Strijemska Mitrovia. Among the political prisoners freed from the prisons in Maribor, Ljubljana and Celje, both in Slovenia, were also some priests.

the tortures received by imprisoned Jesuits.

"They beat you all over with one-inch thick rubber clubs," the memorandum quoted one Hungarian Jesuit once jailed by the Reds. "They concentrate on the head and the soles of the feet, so that afterwards you cannot walk because of the blisters. They are careful not to break any bones."

"They slap you in the face until you fall unconscious. I received about 100 blows this way, fainted three times and finally signed a confession. I had no idea what it was about. They hit you in the stomach until you collapse, then keep kicking you all over. They make you swallow a good handful of salt which they make you believe is deadly poison. You don't receive any water for 14 hours afterwards. They threatened to kill me. They said they would bury me alive and so forth."

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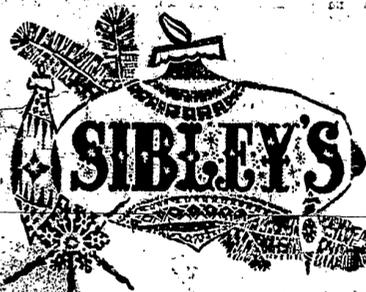
Woman Cured At Lourdes Appears On TV

Brussels, Belgium — (NC) — A woman who was miraculously cured at Lourdes in 1953 appeared on a TV program arranged here to mark the close of the Marian Year.

She was Miss Betty Krattner, one of 13 children of a former Louvain University professor. Seven of the eight sons in the family are priests and the eighth is a university professor.

Miss Krattner was interviewed by Father F. van der Haeghe, a missionary, following a message by Msgr. Charles Crayenburgh, former vice-rector of the Louvain University.

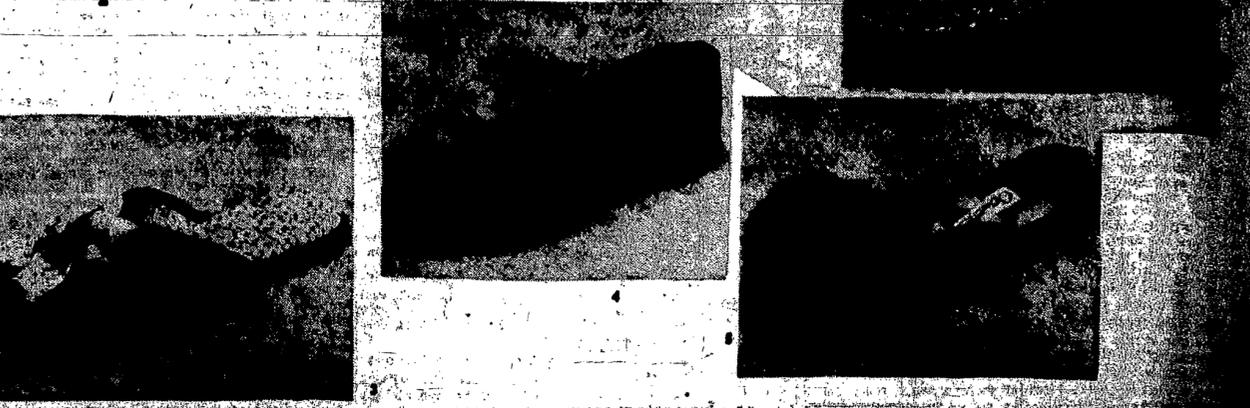
She recalled that she was taken to Lourdes suffering from Pott's disease—a condition affecting the vertebrae and often resulting in curvature of the spine and occasionally in paralysis of the lower extremities—and was granted a cure which was officially recognized by the Church in 1953.



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