

Obscenity In Mails

Court Ruling Curbs Postal Censorship

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — A court ruling that has, in effect, curbed the censorship powers of the Post Office, has met with criticism by Martin M. Work, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Men here.

"American parents are losing the battle for decency in our courts," said Mr. Work, who has long been involved in efforts against indecent literature.

The decision which brought about Mr. Work's comment was made by the United States Court of Appeals here.

THE RULING was that the Postmaster General could not prevent, in effect, continued publication of a magazine, because certain issues contained obscene matter.

"By this decision," Mr. Work added, "the court has taken away the Post Office's most effective weapon and made it virtually impossible to take effective action against those people who use the mails for the distribution of indecent literature."

The ruling by the appellate court, which divided on the issue 2 to 1, knocked out orders by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield denying use of the mails to three nudist magazines.

To let the orders stand, the court said, would permit the Postmaster General "to prevent in practical effect — the continued publication of a magazine without advance knowledge that its future issues will be a violation of law."

THE POSTMASTER General, under his powers to exclude obscene or lewd materials from the mails, must keep his orders "confined to materials already published and duly found unlawful," the court said.

Reds Order 'Saint' Taken From Name Of Croatian Towns

Graz, Austria — (NC) — The Ministry of the Interior in the communist-ruled People's Republic of Croatia has issued a decree abolishing the word "Sveti" in the names of many towns and villages. Sveti means "saint."

One of the most popular towns in Upper Croatia is Sveti Ivan Zelina. But its new name will be simply, Ivan Zelina.

The new government measure has been taken on the ground that "this religious demonization of the names of the towns was not in accord with our socialist reality."

The inhabitants of the villages and towns were not consulted about the matter. But the natives are still using the old full names, which have been in use for the past 700 years.

Shrine Planned In South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa — (NC) — Plans to erect a national shrine of Our Lady were announced by Archbishop Celestine J. Damiano, American-born Apostolic Delegate to the South Africa, in a special message to South African Catholics. The message appeared in the Southern Cross, Catholic weekly published here.

"South Africa," the Archbishop wrote, "belongs to Mary by a special dedication. Only a shrine of national import could adequately symbolize our honor of Mary. With this in mind, the Bishops of South Africa, gathered in plenary session, have passed a resolution to erect such a shrine, a symbolic work that would not only be a pledge of our devotion, but an indication of our confidence in her help in these heavy times which are upon us."

OLDEST U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH



Newport, R.I. — This mysterious stone tower, here, which has baffled scholars for many years, may be the remains of the oldest Catholic church in the United States, according to Capt. Arlington H. Mallory of Washington, D.C., engineer and amateur archeologist. He expressed this view after completing excavations around the base of the ancient landmark. These excavations, he said, strongly support the thesis that the Newport Tower, as it is now called, and a number of other stone ruins in New England were the work of early Irish missionaries who visited America long before Columbus or even Leif Ericsson's Vikings. Capt. Mallory said that a report he will submit to the city of Newport and various archeological societies declares that the tower probably was the center of a church patterned after the Church of the Holy Sepulchre erected in Jerusalem about 330 A.D. (EWS Photo).

Standard Oil Gives Funds To Colleges

New York — (NC) — Nine Catholic colleges and universities are among the 138 privately-supported institutions of higher learning which have been selected to receive financial contributions from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

THE COMPANY extended a total of \$500,000, of which \$450,000 went to the 138 schools and \$50,000 to the Fund for Medical Education. The largest contribution to any one school was \$5,000.

The Catholic schools are: The Catholic University of America and Georgetown University in Washington, D. C.; University of Notre Dame in Indiana; Boston College in Boston, Mass.; College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn.; St. Louis University in St. Louis, Mo.; Fordham University in New York City; Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, N.Y., and Villanova College in Villanova, Pa.

EUGENE HOLMAN, chairman of the board of directors of Jersey Standard, said that the contributions were made for undergraduate education as unrestricted gifts to operation funds. He added that they were in the nature of an experiment from which the company hopes to gain experience to guide future policy in giving to education.

This money was given to privately-supported schools, Mr. Holman said, because the company and its affiliates are already substantial contributors to tax-supported colleges.

'Right-To-Work' Law Will Be Much Before The Nation In 1955

Washington — (NC) — The "Right-To-Work" laws already enacted in 17 States promise to be a hot issue in 1955. These are the laws which a number of Catholic leaders

— notably Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans — in recent months — have so vigorously opposed. These laws go beyond the Taft-Hartley law, the latter outlaws the "closed" shop, under which only workers who are already union members can be employed.

THE STATE "Right-To-Work" laws also ban the "union" shop, under which an employer can hire anybody he chooses, but the worker must join the union within a stipulated period. The State laws also cover the plants manufacturing goods strictly for intra-state use, while the Federal law applies to plants making goods for interstate commerce.

Archbishop Rummel, last Summer, called the "Right-To-Work" bill then being considered in the State of Louisiana "reactionary legislation that will violate the principles of social justice, breed discontent, continue strife between workers and employers, invite misery, and condemn the underprivileged to stagnation economically and socially."

The Association of Catholic Trade Unionists condemned such laws as "immoral, deceitful, undemocratic and un-American."

U. S. SECRETARY OF Labor, James P. Mitchell has called for the repeal of these laws, but President Eisenhower has said that he has not yet made up his mind irrevocably in the matter. The President said the Secretary of Labor was not necessarily expressing the Administration's view on this subject, but that he had a right to say what he thought.

U. S. President, Walter Reuther has interpreted the President's remarks, as a repudiation of the Secretary of Labor. Periodically, the question has been raised in Washington circles: "Who is advising the President on Labor matters?" It should be the Secretary of Labor, and President Eisenhower, in response to a press conference question on December 16, said Secretary Mitchell is his chief advisor in these matters. But that is not expected to settle the matter.

Labor leaders will continue to ask whether the Labor Department, the Commerce Department, or who, it should be the Administration's labor policy. Mr. Mitchell, President Eisenhower's first Secretary of Labor, is supposed to have resigned because this was not settled to his satisfaction. Now, if it can be made to appear that the President has "repudiated" Secretary Mitchell, it will really be something.

Revision of the Taft-Hartley law will be proposed in the 84th Congress, and the "Right-To-Work" laws and the Administration's labor policy will very much be before the public.

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-and please make sure everyone has a very

Merry Christmas

