

Belgian Regime Withholds Subsidies to Church School

Brussels — (RNS) — Government subsidies have been withheld from Roman Catholic and other denominational schools in Belgium on the ground that their expenditures have not been properly certified.

According to Catholic spokesmen, Church schools have been forced to borrow 160,000,000 francs to pay their lay teachers from last Jan. 1 to Dec. 1.

MEMBERS OF the Christian Social Party, the Catholic opposition in Parliament, said that the Liberal-Socialist government not only plans to reduce State subsidies but has failed to pay even those legally approved.

Leo Collard, Minister of Education, replied that the approved subsidies had been held up because the schools, non-Catholic as well as Catholic, had not submitted proper certifications of their expenditures.

"The previous Catholic government (the Christian Social regime) displaced in the last election) never exerted any kind of control of their financial declarations," he said. "This situation has now changed . . . and the first two State controllers have now been designated.

"Should these agree with the demands of religious institutions a substantial advance covering the first six fiscal months of the current year will be allocated to them."

CATHOLIC LEADERS have been fighting Liberal-Socialist plans to reduce subsidies for the Church-operated "free schools." The government contends the reduction is necessary for economic reasons and argues that the former Christian Social regime raised the subsidies to too high a level.

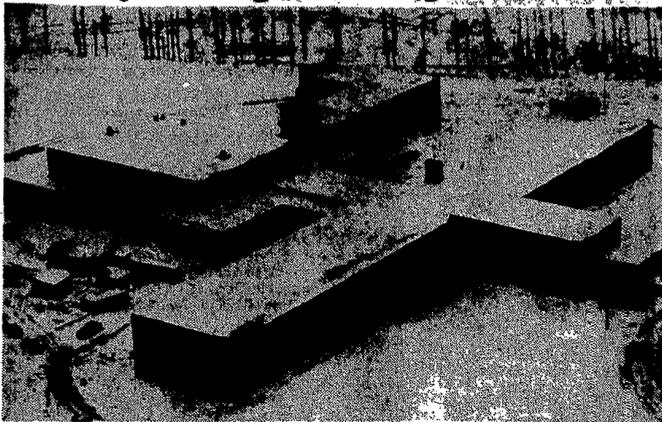
Last month Catholic teachers held a national day of protest. There was a one-day strike of Catholic schools, and Catholic teachers in State schools joined the walkout.

U. S. Priest Named Oriental Delegate

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — The Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church has broadened the jurisdiction of an American priest whom it named last March as its delegate to refugee Rumanian Catholics in Europe.

Mgr. John C. Kirk, a priest of the Savannah-Atlanta diocese, has now been appointed delegate to Rumanian faithful who live anywhere in the world outside their home country. He will be assisted by two counsellors who are of the Rumanian Rite and nationality.

McQuaid High Building Enclosed



THIS AIR-VIEW of the new McQuaid Jesuit High School taken after the explosion in the boiler room on Dec. 16, (explosion occurred where smoke is rising from the center chimney) shows the steel enclosed with brick. Opening is scheduled for September. (Martin R. Wahl Photo.)

Town Board Turns Down Church Appeal

An appeal by the Diocese of Rochester to the Brighton Town Board was unanimously turned down Dec. 17. The Board upheld previous decisions of the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals denying permission to build a church and school for St. Thomas More parish on the Drescher estate, 2615 East Avenue.

The diocese had already filed suit Dec. 9, in New York State Supreme Court against the Town charging that the adverse decisions were a denial of "free exercise of religion." A special term of the Supreme Court will open Jan. 11.

Board members have stated that they do not oppose construction of a Catholic church and school in the town of Brighton but do object to its being located on the East Ave. site because the area is residential. A tax-exempt unit there, they stated, would result in "thousands of dollars" lost to the town from taxes on houses which might be erected there instead of the proposed church and school.

Knights of Malta, Austin, Tex. — (NO) — James P. Nash, an alternate U.S. delegate to the United Nations, has been elected to membership in the American Chapter of the Knights of Malta.

Explosion At McQuaid Will Not Delay Opening

A severe explosion in the boiler room of the partially completed McQuaid Jesuit High School injured three workmen, one quite seriously. The Dec. 16 blast hospitalized Sheldon E. McManus of Kenmore, and James Maloney, the superintendent of the school.

McManus was released from the hospital but Maloney will be confined to St. Mary Hospital with a fractured leg sustained by a blow from the exploded boiler. THE CAUSE of the blast has not been determined. Preliminary investigations have not disclosed the exact nature of the accident which caused considerable damage to the boiler room itself. The most severe damage occurred in the vicinity of the boiler and the brick chimney and flues leading from this section.

Rev. James R. Barnett, S.J., president, said that the damage should be repaired within a few days. The principal, Rev. Gerard E. Fagan, S.J., announced that the accident will not affect the opening of the new school in September.

Animals At The Stable

The following poems were written by eighth graders at St. Ambrose School, who were told by their teacher, Sister Frances Teresa, to imagine what animals, birds or insects might have been present at the stable in Bethlehem.

A Spider At Bethlehem
A spider took a slender hair
To weave a web of gold
To keep a Babe warm and dry
From a stable's cold.

JOSEPH CARRO

A Parakeet's Song
He was a pretty little thing
That Christmas parakeet;
He flew above the Baby King
Singing of grapes and wheat.

"The grapes and wheat
Are bread and wine."
(Sang on the parakeet)
"But someday it will be Body and Blood,
The Eucharist from lowly wheat."

KATHLEEN FISCHER



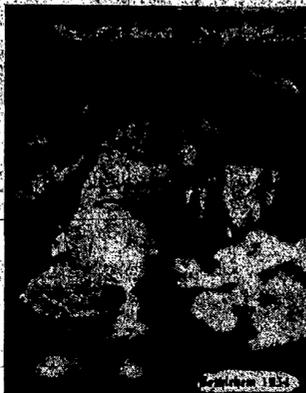
MAY The Prince of Peace be with you, not only during this Holy Christmas Season, but forever in your hearts.

The Management and Staff

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FROM SUCH AS THESE



TO ALL NEAR EAST FRIENDS
The special Midnight Mass of the CRIB of Bethlehem and ten other Masses in the same Holy Place are being offered for all who have been so good to your year.

MANGER STICKS
Only a few sticks of wood, carefully preserved in the Church of St. Mary Major at Rome, are relics of the Crib of Bethlehem. Your Holy Mass devoutly heard on Christmas morning will be a Manger for His coming. We are praying that someone will give us \$2,000 so badly needed to build a little chapel at Melanthars in India. Your Bethlehem!

Gold is for a king, incense is for God, but myrr, used to anoint dead bodies, is a gift for a man. Our Missionaries give the myrr of their sacrifices. Won't you give the gold of your STRINGLESS GIFTS to them? You may wish to belong to our "CHRISTMAS CLUBS" and give a dollar monthly. It is rare gold.

HAD HE NO?
If Jesus had not born, we would not have had a picture of God. Please do not forget our Shrine Chapel of St. Blaise, which we shall build among Palestine's homeless refugees. \$10 gift brings you His undivided picture, suitable for framing. Please do help.

CHRISTMAS MEANS 'CHRISTMAS MASS' HAVE YOUR MISSIONARIES OFFER MASS FOR YOU AND YOURS!

CRIB UNVISITED
Visit to the Crib and straw for His Manger. Those little foundations at Bethlehem, Jerusalem, under the care of the Sisters of Charity, are always our charges. Only \$7 will guard one for a whole month.

BLANKETS FOR HIS BODY
Affectionate prayers warm His Body. Holy Masses console His Heart. Have you ever thought of arranging before your death for the offering of thirty Gregorian Masses, after you pass on? Write for information on our "expensive card." When you do, ask for "HOW CAN I HELP?" which shows the many ways in which you can help needy Near East missionaries.

Near East Missions
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.



Merry Christmas from the RGE

As usual at Christmas time, we have tried to express our holiday feelings to all who pass our door. You will notice when YOU go by, that our building on East Avenue presents a giant Christmas tree . . . each of many windows playing its part in portraying the whole, one of our best loved symbols of the season.

But stop a moment, look to our big window, near the door. It is alive with a scene that is truly Christmas itself . . . the manger and the traditional portrayal of the original Christmas story. In these days when PEACE among men must be a reality or all will perish, we at the RGE hope you will share with us our window story of the Prince of Peace's birth.

We cordially invite you to stop and enjoy our Christmas window during the holidays. We invite you to bring the children and we again wish you a Merry Christmas.

Hospitality Call

ARE YOU our Little Brother?
and you our Mother, too?
And you the kind Saint Joseph,
Guardian so true?

WE'VE COME, for shepherds told us
We have new neighbors here,
That Jesus came from heaven
To be our Brother dear.

THEY SAID the hour was midnight,
The world all white and still,
When suddenly pure angels
Sang: Peace . . . to men of good will!

THEY TOLD us we would find You
Wrapped in swaddling clothes
And lying in a manger . . .
Maybe in repose.

ARE YOU awake, dear Jesus?
If so, may we stay?
Ah, Look! The Light of heaven!
We must kneel and pray.

OH, WE ARE only children,
But we would have You know
You and Yours are welcome
Because You love us so!

—SISTER MARY CLAIRE, O.S.F.

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Soviet Experts Arrive in Albania

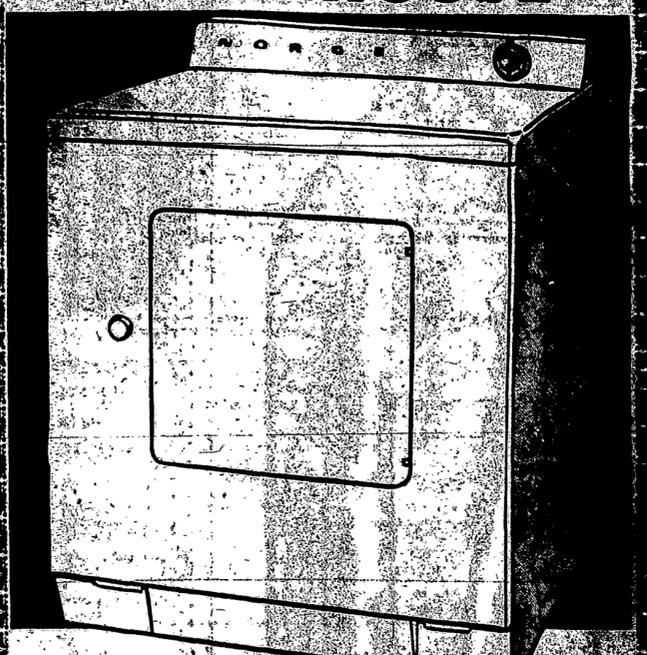
LONDON — (RNS) — Soviet experts arrived in Albania to organize anti-Catholic propaganda. The Communist drive has not been conducted efficiently enough.

This was reported by the Vatican Radio which recalled that it is now 10 years since Albania fell under Communist control.

During this period, the station said, three bishops and 34 priests have been murdered and many others imprisoned on false charges. All Catholic schools, seminaries, have been closed. And 130 nuns and religious institutions have been turned into Communist party headquarters or places of entertainment.

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