

'New Lows' In Bad Taste Charged To Song Industry

New York (NC)—Variety, breezy weekly of the entertainment world, lashed out at the rash of popular songs it said are attempting a total breakdown of all reticences about sex and warned the record industry to clean itself up.

Song lyrics are touching new lows, it said, because of "the cheap cynicism of the song-writers who justify their feeble garbage by declaring 'that's what the kids want' or 'that's the only thing that sells today'."

"IN THE FAST," the Variety editorial said, "such material was common enough but restricted to special places and out-and-out barrelhouses. Today 'leersies' are offered as standard popular music for general consumption, including consumption by teenagers. Our teenagers are already setting something of a record in delinquency without this raw musical litaney to smelt up the environment still more.

Urging the music business not to invite "the governmental and religious lightning that is sure to strike" because of "dirty postcards" (that) have been translated into songs," the trade paper declared.

Elizabeth Bentley Denies Charges By Matusow

Grand Coteau, La.—(NC)—"I have never given any false testimony and I never intend to," commented Elizabeth Bentley, self-styled former communist who now teaches romance languages at Sacred Heart Academy here.

SHE MADE the statement in reply to a charge made in Washington by anti-Communist witness Harvey Matusow, who said that he is a former Communist and that he had led for pay, when he appeared before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Matusow said that Miss Bentley was one of several persons who gave false testimony about Communist espionage.

Miss Bentley declared there was "not a word of truth" in the Matusow statement. She said she had known him only casually and could recall no extensive conversations or "particular discussions with him." She added that she had met him in New York not later than 1950 but he "didn't make much of an impression on me."

A member of the Communist Party from 1935 to 1945, Miss Bentley then became an FBI undercover agent from 1945 to 1949. In 1948 she became a convert to the Catholic Church, from the Episcopal Church to which she had returned after becoming disillusioned with Communism.



ELIZABETH BENTLEY

First Mass In 'Railways Chapel'



Boston—Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston celebrates the first Mass in "Our Lady of the Railways Chapel" in South Station here. The chapel, the country's first in a railroad station, is located in a renovated movie theater adjoining the station's main concourse. Its name was selected to correlate with the title of the world's first permanent airport chapel here, "Our Lady of the Airways." The station chapel is air conditioned and embodies a railroad motif in its religious decorations. (RNS Photo)

All Invited To Worship In Railway Terminal Chapel

Boston, Mass.—(NC)—"I'm trying to give God to you and to give you to God," Archbishop Richard J. Cushing told 3,600 persons at the opening of the chapel of Our Lady of the Railways in Boston's South Station.

He invited all travelers to use the unique chapel regardless of the religion they profess. "I don't care if you are Protestant, Catholic or Jew," he said. "Come to my chapel. I'm trying to give God to you and to give you to God."

SIX HUNDRED worshippers filled the chapel to capacity an hour before the Archbishop formally opened it with a low Mass at 5 p.m. Another 3,000 crowded the concourse on the busy railroad terminal outside the chapel. Many stayed after the service to say the Stations of the Cross and other prayers.

'I'm Not Too Well, But I Feel Good'

Boston, Mass.—(NC)—Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston referred to the persistent rumors about his health.

"Many people worry about me," he said. "Everyone knows that I am not too well, but I feel that I'm in good condition.

"Everyone's trying to take care of me, while I'm trying to take care of them. I have so much love for you that maybe I do too much. I have not such strength, but I am willing to live and die, for the Faith in which we live," he declared.

Buffalo Catholic Schools Save City Taxpayers \$12-Million

Buffalo, N.Y.—(NC)—The Buffalo diocese saved this city's taxpayers more than \$11,798,000 last year through operation of its Catholic school system, it was estimated here.

Msgr. Sylvester J. Hoibel, diocesan schools superintendent, issued a statement pointing out the tax savings realized by the community.

Monsignor Hoibel's statement followed by a few days a story in Buffalo's largest daily newspaper, The Buffalo Evening News, which had pointed out that 2.2 per cent of all property within the city limits pays no taxes.

Archbishop Alter 'Company Keeping' Sinful With Divorced Persons

Cincinnati — (NC) — Archbishop Karl J. Alter has asked the priests of this archdiocese to make it plain to their parishioners that keeping company with a divorced person is forbidden.

In a message sent from the Chancery Office, the Archbishop said there had been an "alarming increase" in this problem. He cited a convert class in which 16 of the 30 persons enrolled were "divorced persons keeping company with Catholics."

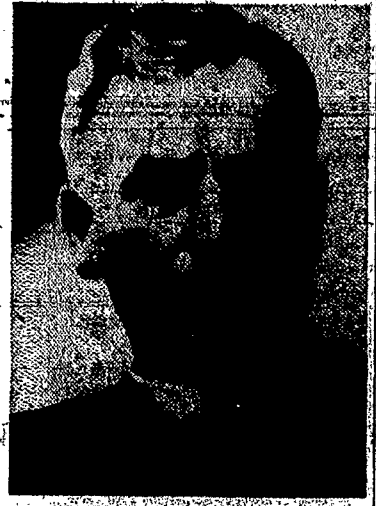
He advised the priests to make it clear that "company keeping by or with a divorced person, Catholic or non-Catholic, is forbidden; any Catholic who violates this law of God is not a fit subject for the reception of the Sacraments until he resolves to break such associations and to amend his life in this regard."

The Archbishop said of those Catholics who assert it is all right to keep company with a divorced person "as long as the couple behaves themselves":

"This is tantamount to denying the Ninth Commandment and the obligation to avoid giving scandal. It is also an attempt to usurp the exclusive right of the Church to determine the free (marital) status of any of her children.

"It is the function of the Church and not of private individuals to determine the nullity of any marriage or the freedom of any person to marry. Until and unless the Church has so stated, a divorced person is not free to marry and therefore not free to keep company, nor may a Catholic keep company with such a person."

"The desire of a divorced non-Catholic to become a Catholic does not change his marital status, the message points out.



ARCHBISHOP ALTER

The public and parochial schools and other educational institutions are tax-exempt.

Last year, Monsignor Hoibel figures, it cost about \$529 to educate a child in the Buffalo public school system. "If the 36,947 Catholic students had been educated in public schools at this per capita cost of \$529," the Monsignor said, "the additional educational cost to the city would have been \$12,155,459."

"Because of the tax exempt Catholic schools, therefore, the City of Buffalo saved \$11,798,745 in educational operating and maintenance costs in the single academic year of 1953-54," the Monsignor added.

"If this nearly \$12,000,000 required to educate in the public schools the Catholic students being educated in the tax-exempt schools—had been added to the \$33,305,734 which the city raised in taxes last year, the taxes would have had to be increased by more than one-third," Monsignor Hoibel continued.

THE TAX-SAVING figures cited—Monsignor said—are for operating and maintenance costs of education only. They presuppose that the City of Buffalo had the physical plant and equipment to educate in public schools the 36,947 Catholic students educated last year in Catholic tax-exempt schools. The Monsignor continued:

"If the city's Department of Education had to provide schools for last year's Catholic school enrollments, 1,231 new classrooms at a cost of about \$30,775,000 would be required, on the basis of a 30-pupils-a-classroom standard."

"THESE FIGURES include only classroom and corridor space," Monsignor Hoibel said. "If such auxiliary facilities as administrative offices, auditoriums and gymnasiums were provided, the figure would be nearly doubled."

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