

Connecticut Argues Cardinal McIntyre Officiates At Baptism

Hartford, Conn. (RNS)—Bills to legalize birth control information and devices in Connecticut were both denounced and supported on moral, religious and medical grounds at a legislative hearing here.

The opposition was led by spokesmen for the Hartford Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Norwich and Bridgeport dioceses, including eight physicians. Proponents included Protestant and Jewish clergymen, and doctors.

THE BILLS would authorize physicians to prescribe birth control information and devices and would repeal a 75-year-old law prohibiting them from giving such advice to their patients.

Two Democratic legislators, Sens. James Whelan and Milton E. J. Reinhard, Jr., declared that the Democratic-controlled Senate would reject the measures if they are approved by the Republican-controlled House. In past years the House has sometimes passed repeal legislation but the Senate has always defeated it.

More than a score of Senators and Representatives spoke on the bills, with the proponents and opponents evenly divided on the issue.

Opponents said they were certain the voters would reject birth control in a referendum and that they had no objection to such a referendum being written into the bills. They presented medical testimony against birth control. Representatives of the Roman Catholic churches in the state argued against the measures on moral and religious grounds.

Among the physicians speaking against the measure was Dr. Frederick Barrett of Jewett City who said, "With modern medicine and treatment, birth control is not a medical necessity. What was wrong 50 years ago is still wrong today. I urge defeat of these bills."

Dr. Gerard M. Charlier of Danvers, a surgeon, said he is the father of 13 children. "I am convinced that birth control is morally wrong," he declared.

Drive-In Theater Films Deplored By Archbishop

Richmond, Ind. (RNS)—Archbishop Paul C. Schulte of Indianapolis has called for a special effort by women to oppose unsuitable films in drive-in theaters.

Speaking to the archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, the archbishop said the drive-in is a wonderful institution for the family, provided only good films are shown. He urged also that firm letters to the manager be sent if the fare is improper.

Archbishop Schulte spoke on the subject of "The Holy Family—Model of Family Living." He also urged the women to inspect literature offered in corner drugstores and politely call the attention of the owner or manager to films being offered for sale.

One way to handle the situation, the prelate said, is to pick up the book, walk over to the manager and inquire if he had any children, then calmly hand him the book and ask him if he would like his children to read such material.

She might also point out that a druggist is trusted not to sell poison to children, the archbishop said, so why offer them "mental poison."

Tax Relief Eyed For Church Groups

Harrisburg, Pa. (RNS)—Two new bills to give religious organizations relief from the state inheritance tax were introduced in the House.

One would exempt religious and charitable groups entirely from the 15 per cent tax. The other would reduce the tax to two per cent.



Santa Monica, Calif. — His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, officiated at the baptism of one-month old Christopher Lawford in St. Monica's Catholic Church here. The infant is the son of screen actor Peter Lawford (left) and the former Patricia Kennedy (holding baby). In background are: Joseph P. Kennedy, former ambassador to Great Britain, the baby's grandfather; Peter Sabiston, the Godfather; and Lady Lawford, the actor's mother. (RNS Photo)

Holy Father To Address Workers' May Day Rally

Rome (NC)—More than 100,000 workers—members of the Christian Associations of Italian Workers (ACLI)—are expected in Rome for the May 1 celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of their organization.

Made up of both men and women, the organization is not a trade union, but aims at safeguarding the Faith and realizing moral principles in the social field.

Highpoint of the celebration will be an audience in St. Peter's Square with an address by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. The workers will bring the Pope gifts symbolic of their types of labor and will offer a joint pledge to restore Christ to "our factories and fields."

The celebrations will include an open-air Mass in the Piazza del Popolo offered by His Eminence Adeodato Giovanni Cardinal Piazza. The Piazza del Popolo has often been the scene of communist demonstrations.

Indian Catholic Workers Rally

Bombay (NC)—The Young Catholic Workers got a week's jump on the Communist May Day rally by staging a big demonstration of their own here.

It stole the thunder from the Red May Day celebration and convinced many that the Church was more anxious than the Reds about the workers' welfare.

His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, presided at the ceremonies. Seated on both sides of the Cardinal on the dias were representatives of various trade unions.

There was also a special place for the unemployed. Banners showing Christ the Workman decorated the stadium where the rally was held.

Church Penalty Issued Against Peron Editor

Buenos Aires (RNS)—A Catholic bishop has excommunicated the editor of an Argentine daily newspaper for his "campaign of libel and insults" against the Church.

The move by Bishop Froilan Ferreira Reinafe de La Rioja was the first spiritual sanction applied by Church authorities in resisting the five-month-long anti-Church campaign of the Peron administration.

Pro-Peron newspapers immediately loosed a storm of abuse on Bishop Ferreira.

THE BISHOP'S excommunication order covered Juan Marino, editor of Gaceta Riojana, and all "moral and financial collaborators" in his campaign, except workmen of the paper.

Bishop Ferreira said Sr. Marino persisted, despite warnings, in libeling and insulting ecclesiastical persons and institutions worthy of respect.

He also condemned the paper's "manifest intention to spread heretical doctrine, separating Christ from his Catholic Church and hierarchy and scandalizing the humble faithful."

Diocesan Schools End Night Games

Evansville, Ind. (RNS)—Catholic Bishop Henry Grimmelmann of Evansville has moved to eliminate all night athletic competitions in the six parochial high schools of the diocese.

He instructed the schools they may fulfill contracts for night games which are already signed, but will be expected to arrange future contests for the afternoon.

"It is thought," said the bishop's announcement, "that night contests are especially undesirable, since they contribute to late hours and give occasion to undesirable social affairs after the contests, keeping the students away from necessary study and out of the home late into the night."

Bishops' Relief Unit Adopts New Name

Washington (NC)—The name of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference has been changed officially to Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

This action was taken at the Spring meeting just held here of the Archbishops and Bishops making up the board of trustees of the relief agency.

WRS-NCWC was organized by the Catholic Bishops of the United States as a war relief measure in 1943, to help alleviate suffering and distress among war-stricken people abroad.

It was first headed by Msgr. Bryan J. McEntegart, now a Bishop and Rector of the Catholic University of America. He was succeeded by Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle, who was named Archbishop of Washington in 1947. Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom has been its executive director since that time.

The world-wide relief activities of WRS-NCWC during the last 12 years have aided distressed people, in even the most remote corners of the earth, who have been the victims of war, drought, fire, flood, and national emergencies.

Shipments of goods to the war-affected and refugee areas by the organization in the 12 years of its existence totalled 973,197,120 pounds in weight, with an estimated value of \$327,835,203.38. In the same twelve years, the agency received from the National War Fund, the Bishops Welfare and Emergency Relief Committee, and a special German appeal a total \$38,204,310.17.

The one-billionth pound of relief goods should go forward in mid-May, according to present shipping schedules.

RELIEF MATERIAL has been shipped to Western Europe, the Middle East, India and Pakistan. Shipments have also been made to the Far East, and particularly Korea and Vietnam. They included such articles as clothing, shoes, blankets, foodstuffs and medicines.

This vast program, aside from individual contributions and grants, is supported by the annual Laetare Sunday campaign conducted in 19,000 Catholic parishes throughout the United States. The goal set for the collection this year was \$5,000,000. Only two per cent of the money raised in this collection used for administration and operating costs.

Aside from this relief work, the Bishops' agency carried out a vast program for refugees and EPs, inaugurated in the Fall of 1948, and continued until the Summer of 1952. Of the 393,542 Displaced Persons brought into the United States in those four years, 135,748 or 34.5 per cent were brought in under the sponsorship of WRS-NCWC.

New legislation for refugees was passed in the Summer of 1953, and already more than 1,000 visas have been issued to refugees for admittance to the United States with the aid of the Bishops' agency.

Give Vocation Try, Bishop Bids Youths

Dallas (NC)—If a young man thinks he might have a vocation to the priesthood, he ought to give it a try, Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas, Fort Worth declared.

Speaking at a vocation rally in Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Bishop said that the young person entering the seminary or novitiate might be mistaken about having a vocation.

But, he said, if you never try it out, the directors and superiors will never get a chance to encourage you. But if you leave after a couple of years, there is no disgrace, he added.

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