

# Ease Refugee Law Congress Urged

Washington — (NC) — Catholic Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference has joined with more than a score of other voluntary agencies working in the refugee immigration and resettlement field in urging Congress to liberalize the 1953 Refugee Relief Act.

The act, which runs until December 31, 1956, provides for the admission of 214,000 refugees to the United States. The provisions of the act are far more stringent than those of the old Displaced Persons Law with the result that only a tenth of the 214,000 have come to this country under the law.

President Eisenhower already has asked Congress to make 10 changes in the law to liberalize the program. Senator Herbert H. Lehman of New York has published in the Congressional Record a statement issued by the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, of which CBS-N.C.W.C. is a member.

The statement said that the council, after full discussion, announced its "unanimous and urgent" support for liberalization of the refugee relief program as now under consideration in Congress.

"The discussion, in which agencies representatives recently returned from abroad participated," the council statement said, "emphasized the fact that far more people are anxious to emigrate to the United States than can be accommodated under the Refugee Relief Act, and that these oppressed and homeless people living under conditions of poverty, suffering and unemployment, and constitute a continuing challenge of America's generosity and foreign policy."

"The agencies strongly urged that Congress do everything in its power toward the end that there may be 100 per cent fulfillment of the objectives of the program."

THE RECOMMENDED changes to liberalize the law are before the Senate subcommittee on refugee problems, of which Senator William Langer of North Dakota is chairman. In the House, the proposed changes are before a subcommittee headed by Rep. Francis Walter of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Edward E. Swanson, executive director of CRS-N.C.W.C., testified before the larger subcommittee.

The Monsignor later said that up to the present time a total of 1577 refugees, escapees and fugitives from communism have been admitted to the United States.

## Air Condition Historic Church

New Orleans — (NC) — World famous St. Louis Cathedral here, which attests the Diocese of New Orleans, founded in 1783, is being air-conditioned.

The first Bishop of New Orleans, the Most Rev. Luis Fombriner y Cardenas, arrived in 1785.

The first St. Louis church was erected when the area was under French domination. The area passed to Spanish rule, then again to French rule, then to the United States, the Confederate States of America and back to the United States.

Father George Julian, O.M.I., cathedral pastor, said the air conditioning will preserve the murals of the edifice and do away with street noises, particularly annoying when the windows and doors have been kept open — which is more than half of the year. The air conditioning program will cost some \$50,000.

SPANISH NEWS SERVICE Madrid — (RNS) — Enrique Cardinal Pita y Daniel, Archbishop of Toledo, said there is a need in Spain for a centralized Catholic news service.

## Nuns Learn TV Technique



PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Two nuns attending the eighth annual convention here of the Catholic Broadcasters Association learn about television techniques from Mike Phillips, floor manager of station WQED-TV, Pittsburgh. They are: Sister Marie Martinie, S.S.A., supervisor of radio and TV for the Worcester (Mass.) Diocese (left); and Sister Rosemary, head of the music department at Mt. Mercy College here. Delegates from many parts of the country attended the convention. (RNS Photo)

## Wings Over Wasteland Alaska Priests Fly Round Trip 4,000 Miles For Retreat

Juneau, Alaska — (NC) — Priests of the Diocese of Juneau flew a total of 4,200 miles to attend their annual retreat at the Shrine of St. Teresa, on an island, 23 miles north of this capital city of Alaska.

Bishop Dermot O'Flanagan of Juneau and seven priests made the retreat, which was conducted by Father Edward T. Wiatrak, S.J., of Chicago. Four diocesan priests were unable to attend because of illness.

Juneau is accessible only by plane or boat, so the priests had to fly to the retreat in between Sundays.

FROM ANCHORAGE, Alaska, a round trip of 1,500 miles, came Father Stanley A. Baker and Father Francis Nugent, pastor and assistant of Holy Family Parish. From Skagway came Msgr. G. Edgar Gallant, superintendent of the Pius X Mission School, and Father Francis G. Cowgill, his assistant. The other priest retreatants were: Father David A. Melbourne, pastor of Cordova; Father Matthew E. Hoch, pastor of Wrangell; and Father Ray

## Father Keller:

# TV Needs Sound Moral Principles

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — Television, fast becoming one of the world's most powerful channels of communication, desperately needs writers, directors, producers and policy makers with sound moral principles, according to the Rev. James G. Keller, M.M., founder and director of The Christophers.

Speaking at a banquet highlighting the eighth annual conference of the Catholic Broadcasters Association here, Father Keller said:

"Whether television becomes an asset or a liability for mankind depends on the imagination, during and missionary vision of the small number of people who make it their business to go into the creative end of TV and thus shape the message that its powerful facilities communicate to the public."

THE PRIEST urged the more than 300 delegates from 28 states to extend their "visions" by becoming more active in their respective fields. He said that by doing this they could help make television "a blessing instead of a curse."

Emphasizing that television is an enormous field with tremendous possibilities, Father Keller said "It can make or break the country and the world."

He added that only a small minority of the more than a million persons in the television field today are responsible for the content of programs "that are shaping the thought and morals" of their vast audience.

Decrying the lack of persons in the field with a real sense of moral values, Father Keller said:

"By and large, the three per cent who determine the content which the other 97 per cent put on the air as technicians, performers or merchandisers are usually people without any particular motivation beyond making a comfortable living and achieving a certain amount of prestige in the industry."

"Most therefore are indifferent to the story content of a program. If they tend at times to stoop to what is debasing, coarse or brutal, it is seldom due to malice on their part, but rather to the fact that they are not equipped by background or training to turn out presentations that are of high moral standard, and at the same time

have the wide audience appeal that is essential if a program is to stay on the air."

"TELEVISION IS already making an impact on hundreds of millions — both good and bad — that will probably make movies pale by comparison," he observed.

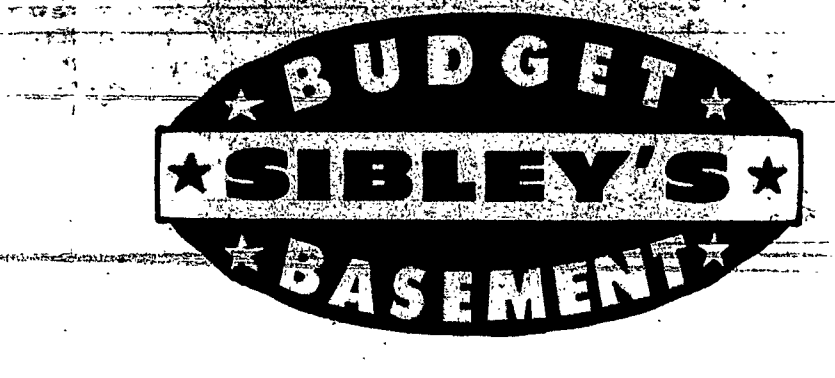
Father Keller outlined a seven-point program which he said would enable Catholic and other broadcasters of sound moral principles to make television a blessing to mankind:

1. Look on TV as a gift of God that He has put in their hands.
2. Be positive and not negative by following the apostolic admonition, "Let us not love in word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in truth," and "Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good."
3. Apply Christian principles to all their programming endeavors, not only in programs strictly of a religious nature.
4. Fight those who present morally unacceptable programs, and encourage others who follow moral principles in plots.
5. Pray for the writers, directors, producers and policy makers who are now making a serious effort to present high quality TV shows.
6. Use the influence of the home, church and school to guide talented and apostolic young people to think of a career in the creative end of TV.
7. Keep TV's future out of the hands of modern pagans who will use it to degrade mankind.

## English Town Hall Turned Into Church

London — (NC) — The town hall of the picturesque old West England town of Bradford-on-Avon has become the Church of St. Thomas More.

Bishop Joseph E. Rudderham of Clifton after blessing the external walls of the building, led the procession of some 400 Catholics around the adjoining block of buildings which have also become diocesan property. They include a school, a shop and two cottages.



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