

Smash Law POAU Urges In School Bus Dispute

Albuquerque, N. Mex. — (NC) — Establishment of a state chapter of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State has been undertaken here as an outgrowth of a fight on a state law which would permit Catholic school children to ride on public school busses.

Some 200 persons, reportedly two-thirds of them Baptists, attended a meeting which was addressed by Dr. Glenn L. Archer, POAU executive secretary, who came from Washington, D.C. After Dr. Archer had inveighed against the Catholic Church, the meeting voted to "smash" the school bus law, and proposed to set up a state chapter of POAU.

Although the meeting was called presumably on the school bus issue, and although Dr. Archer disclaimed any anti-Catholic feeling, the POAU secretary ranged far afield and engaged in some bitter attacks upon the Catholic Church. His remarks attracted attention in the secular press.

Governor Simms of New Mexico signed into law on March 31, 1955, a measure which says each country in New Mexico may furnish transportation for all children attending classes in compliance with New Mexico's compulsory school attendance law, in the same manner and over the same routes of travel provided for pupils attending state public schools.

Baptists in New Mexico sent letters to Governor Simms, urging him not to sign the measure. He did, however, and the law has been subjected to a barrage of protests ever since. The Baptists challenged its constitutionality, threatening a court suit, which has not yet materialized. The slogan "separation of Church and State" has been employed three and again in publicly attacking the law.

On May 12, 1955, Richard H. Robinson, New Mexico's Attorney General, through Assistant Attorney General W. R. Kegel, recorded an opinion that the new school bus law was unconstitutional. The Attorney General said it violated neither the Federal Constitution nor New Mexico statutes.

THE MEETING addressed by

bornly resisting in the Supreme Court of exerting "excessive" influence in metropolitan areas and some states, of blocking the passage of desperately needed school aid legislation, and of "stacking" legislative committees.

Dr. Archer and held in the First Baptist Church of this city is the latest development in this fight against the school bus law. Dr. Archer said he hoped all misunderstanding would be kept out of the dispute, and that "we are not here to spread hate or distrust," but he accused Catholics of stubbornly resisting in the Supreme Court of exerting "excessive" influence in metropolitan areas and some states, of blocking the passage of desperately needed school aid legislation, and of "stacking" legislative committees.

He also engaged in some stinging remarks against His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

Bridgeport Bishop

High Standards Termed Need Of Catholic High Schools

Milford, Conn. — (NC) — Catholics must continue their efforts to provide secondary schools for the proper education of Catholic youth and must be ever vigilant to maintain the highest academic standards in these schools, Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Bridgeport declared here.

He preached at a Solemn Pontifical Mass marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Lauriaton Hall, a secondary school for girls conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford.

"HIGH SCHOOL years are among the most critical years of life," Bishop Shehan said. "In this respect," he continued, "I am afraid that many of us, both religious and lay, sometimes have a tendency to be too complacent. We imagine that because education is in the hands of religious men and women, it is therefore bound to be superior education. This is far from true. Our teachers, whatever their religious status, must be able and must be well trained; they must have the facilities necessary for effective teaching."

The Bishop cautioned against overcrowding in classrooms despite the desire to place the spiritual and moral welfare of many children above the purely intellectual advantages of the few.

He warned, however, that if the Catholic high school is to meet the needs of the day it is necessary that it should maintain high academic standards. "I am afraid that many of us, both religious and lay, sometimes have a tendency to be too complacent. We imagine that because education is in the hands of religious men and women, it is therefore bound to be superior education. This is far from true. Our teachers, whatever their religious status, must be able and must be well trained; they must have the facilities necessary for effective teaching."

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DAR Seeks Portrait Of Noted Catholic

Washington — (RNS) — A nationwide hunt for a portrait of Thomas Fitz-Simons, signer of the Constitution and first Roman Catholic layman to attain municipal office in Philadelphia, was announced here by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Fitz-Simons arrived in America a penniless immigrant from Ireland but made a fortune in business and helped finance the American Revolution.

A close friend of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, he was an officer of the Revolutionary Army and was with Washington the night he crossed the Delaware.

However, not a single portrait of him is known to exist unless this country-wide search turns up one.

Anyone who has a picture of the Catholic statesman is asked to contact DAR national headquarters in Washington, D. C.



Chicago — A group of nuns watch as one of their members is shown a deck hatch during a visit they made to a submarine on display at the Powerama Exhibition here. The nuns are teachers at the Ascension School, Harvey, Ill. Explaining the hatch to the nun is Lt. Jack Vaughn. (RNS Photo)

Pope Thanks U.S. For Aid, Warns Against Materialism

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII said here that United States aid to Europe represented a step toward a "higher conception of man and of human society."

At the same time, the Pontiff warned against the danger of making an ideal of material advantages. "The Pontiff's warning against idealizing material advantages was directed to 'the peoples of the West.'"

Pope Pius stressed the importance of mutual exchanges between peoples of all levels. But he added that tourist, commercial, and even literary and intellectual exchanges are not sufficient unless they are based on spiritual values.

Of American aid to Europe the Pope said: "The Western nations appreciate the important help given them by America after the last world war. — help that allowed them to repair the considerable damages they suffered and to re-equip and modernize their industries."

Year's Prayer For Lapsed Catholics

Williamsburg, Va. — The Diocese of Richmond will observe a "Reclamation Year" during which Catholic groups will make special efforts to reclaim fallen-away Catholics.

The year will be a prelude to the joint celebration, November 1956, of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Sacred Heart Cathedral and the 50th anniversary of Bishop Peter L. Ireton's ordination.

Bishop Ireton of Richmond announced this in an address to 600 Holy Name men of the Richmond diocese gathered here for their annual convention.

The Bishop said he hoped the "Reclamation Year" would also intensify the devotion of the diocese's faithful Catholics.

Canonized Nursing Pioneer Nurses Served Sick Poor

Boston — (NC) — Rose Hawthorne Lathrop and Mary Walsh are not recognized by the Church as canonized saints but "they certainly helped to canonize nursing." This was a statement of Archbishop Richard J. Cushing to graduates of St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross here.

BOTH WOMEN, who founded religious orders to aid the sick poor at the beginning of this century, were cited by the Boston prelate as examples "of greater interest and encouragement" to the new graduates.

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, in religion Mother Alphonsa, was the foundress of the Servants for the Relief of Incurable Cancer, a Dominican foundation under the patronage of St. Rose of Lima. In 1879 Miss Walsh founded the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor in New York. Her name in religion was Mother Mary Walsh.

Both were "almost forced" to found religious orders because of the demands made upon them by the sick poor. Archbishop Cushing noted. Both were alone when they started and both contributed all their resources "in response to a deep seated love of neighbor that could not be denied by any human consideration."

ARCHBISHOP Cushing, Episcopal Director of the National Council of Catholic Nurses, pointed out that the backgrounds of the two women were quite different.

Mrs. Lathrop, daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author, educated in the capital cities of Europe and "accustomed to the urbanity of diplomatic life and the stimulation of cultural interests" was a convert to the faith.

Mary Walsh, an immigrant from Ireland, earned her living at an ironing board in the homes of the rich and was alone in a large city.

Both were animated by "the same desire and necessity of serving one's neighbor because of a love of God too compelling to be satisfied by half measures," Archbishop Cushing continued.

Cincinnati — A healthy humility has to replace the chosen mind before good religious art will find the place it should have in the home, a priest, who is a religious artist, declared here.

Addressing the Xavier University's Family Life Institute, Father Paul Scales, O.F.M., associate editor of the St. Anthony Messenger magazine, declared: "We should try to create a market for religious art that is not sentimental, gushy or stiffed."

To create such a market, parents should "study the good things in the field of art with humility," he said. "They will accept the judgment of someone qualified in music about a musical composition, and they will accept the decisions of others in questions of philosophy. But when it comes to art — and especially painting — many persons set themselves up as critics without the benefit of training or experience."

Parents might begin by providing a "really good crucifix" as the first step in making their home "a little church," he said.

"It isn't necessary to buy the most expensive thing in order to get good art," he said.

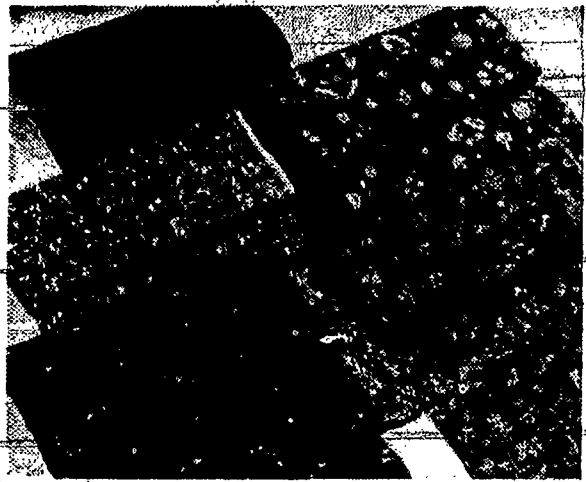
He pointed out that people accustomed to paying large sums for a good car or for a good washing machine ought to be generous in providing their families with objects that are spiritually helpful.

"We should see religious art as a sacramental — as something that will help us develop a solid spirituality," he stated.

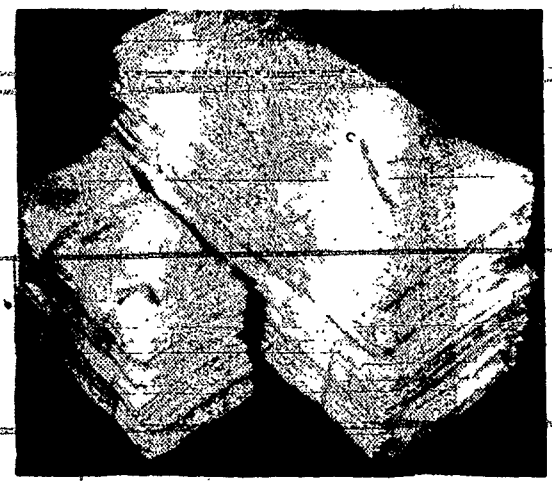


Home Furnishings Fair

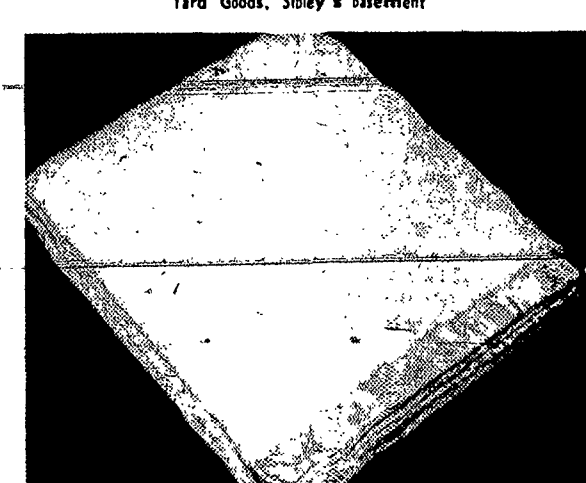
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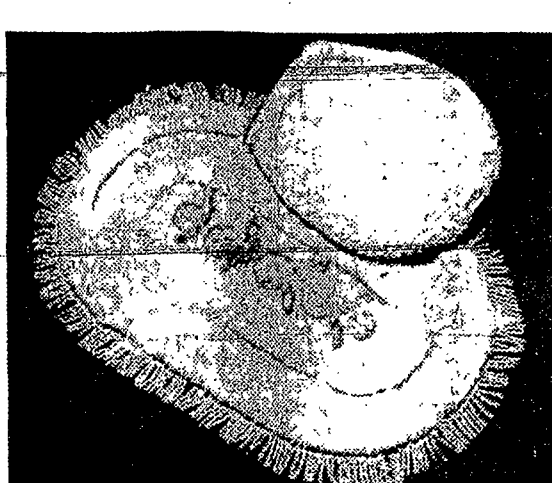
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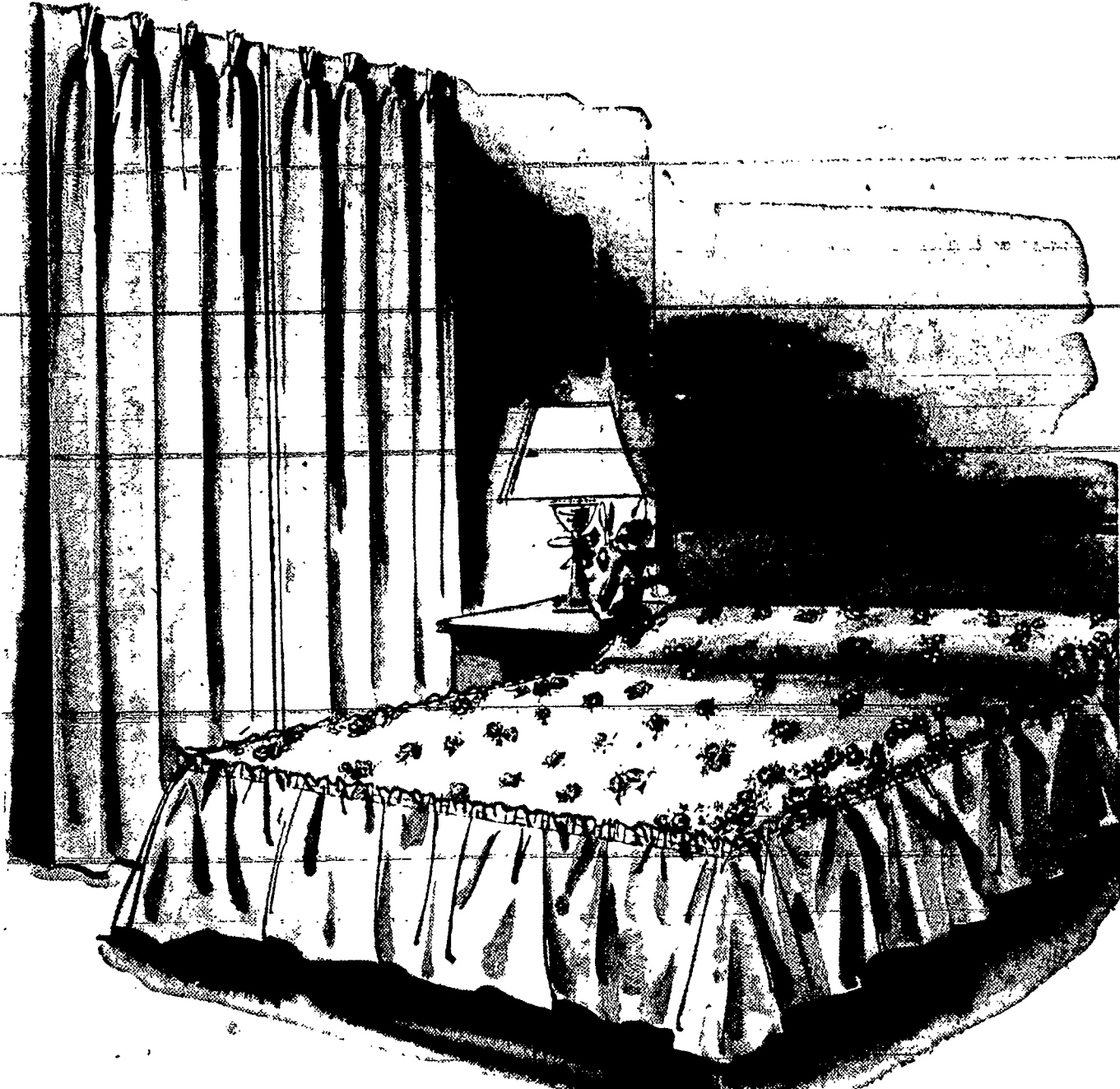
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