

Treasury Against Excise Tax Relief For Catholic Schools

By JOHN J. DALY, JR.
(Staff Writer, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Washington — (NC) — The excise tax question struck a Congressional hearing here like a bolt out of the blue.

Result? A stand by the subcommittee chairman that he favors exemption for private schools and the announcement by a Treasury official that his department opposes any such relief.

He said the move would result in "a progressive series of exemptions" that would "ultimately have appreciable revenue costs."

Mr. Smith said he was "fully aware of the relief of the burden granted to parents by the exemption, but insisted it cannot be given 'regardless of, if you like, the ultimate social worthiness'."

"I observed that in the last few years where a parochial school has been established, there is certain relief on the general school budget, and so I can fully share the sentiments and worthiness of the objective or general objective," he admitted.

Representative Forand said he was "very much surprised at the

attitude taken by the Treasury." He called it a "weak position that doesn't make much sense."

IF THE EXEMPTION were granted, it would not be discrimination against other groups affected by the tax, but rather the righting of an already existing discrimination, Mr. Forand declared in an interview.

The loss in revenue the Department pointed to, continued the Congressman, would be an "inconsequential amount" as taxes go in today's world.

Parents with children in private schools are already suffering under a "double burden" because they pay their fair share of taxes for support of public schools and also contribute to the support of their child's school.

"At least these people should be allowed relief from the excise taxes," Mr. Forand stated.

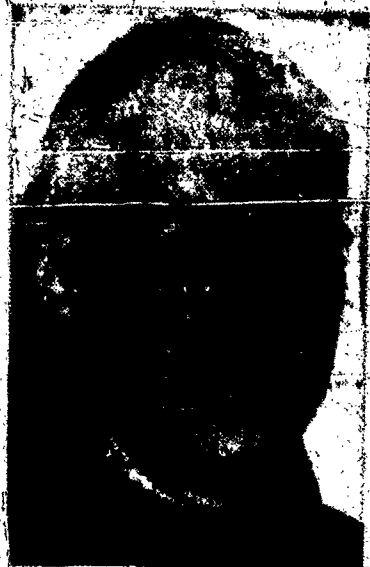
Congress Probe Of Reds Backed By Fr. Braun

Cleveland — (NC) — "Don't be too complacent about the Senatorial and Congressional committees at work on un-American activities," a priest who worked for 12 years in Russia, warned here.

Chaplain to Catholics at the U. S. Embassy in Moscow from 1934 to 1945, Father Leopold S. Braun, A.A., addressed the men of the Cleveland Diocesan Holy Name Union at their annual meeting.

"These Congressional investigating committees are the only means available to ferret out in our American population, people who cannot pledge allegiance to the American flag and to the country for which it stands," declared Father Braun.

Father Braun expressed the hope that the Western powers will not allow themselves to be caught in the world trade trap which the Kremlin has set. Its use of slave labor would permit Russia to undersell every nation in the world, including the United States, he warned.



Bishop-Elect

St. Bonaventure, N.Y. — (RNS) — Bishop-elect Eustace J. Smith, O.F.M., vice-rector of Christ the King Seminary here, will be consecrated Titular Bishop of Apamea Chlothis and Vicar Apostolic of Beirut for Latin Rite Catholics in Lebanon on Feb. 2. The ceremony will take place in the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C., with Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., as the consecrator. Bishop-elect Smith will be the first bishop of the Vicariate Apostolic erected by Pope Pius XII on July 4, 1953. He will be the spiritual leader of some 11,000 Latin Rite Catholics in Lebanon.

Father Lombardi Coming To U.S.

Rome — (NC) — Jesuit Father Riccardo Lombardi, founder of the Movement for a Better World, is enroute to North America to give courses for priests on the principles guiding the movement which is rapidly growing in Italy.

Father Lombardi is due to make a brief stop in Holland before he proceeds to New York and Mexico City. He is scheduled to give two courses at Guadalajara and Puebla, in Mexico for 300 priests from Latin America.

The Italian priest, who has stirred Europe with his "crusade of love," toured the United States in the Fall of 1949 and Latin America in 1951.

He describes his "crusade of love" as an "announcement to the whole world that we can and must overcome communism with the Gospel, sincerely practiced."



Brazil President At Mass

New York — (RNS) — President-elect Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira of Brazil (center) is shown on his way to Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral here with Auxiliary Bishop Joseph F. Flanagan of New York, the cathedral's administrator (left). The new Brazilian president was on a visit to this country before his inauguration on Jan. 31.

Archdiocese Cites Lay Teacher Gain

Chicago — (NC) — Some 1,000 lay teachers are now employed in Catholic elementary and high schools of the Chicago archdiocese. This was disclosed in a report on the 1954-1955 school year by Magr. Daniel F. Cunningham, archdiocesan school superintendent.

Seven times as many Catholic laymen are teaching now in grade schools as there were 10 years ago, he noted.

Elementary schools now have 378 lay teachers and high schools 250 lay teachers out of a total of 8,027 teachers in the system, Magr. Cunningham reported.

Reds Making Border A 'No-Man's-Land'

Vienna — (NC) — Czechoslovakia's Communist rulers are turning the area along the Austrian border into a "no-man's-land" according to reports reaching here. Whole villages are being destroyed to make it easier for Red frontier guards to prevent the escape of Czech anti-Communists to the West, reports said.

Worcester Bishop On USS Worcester

Worcester — (RNS) — Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester saluted the U.S.S. Worcester at Charlestown Navy Yard here during a visit to the ship. Accompanying the Bishop were Chaplain John M. Quirk of Boston, Catholic chaplain on the Worcester (left); and Chaplain (Rear Adm.) Robert J. White (Ret.) of Portsmouth, a lecturer at the Naval Chaplain School, Newport, R. I., and the Naval School of Justice, Newport, R. I., Washington, D. C.

Operation Understanding Public Invited To Visit Catholic Churches

Oklahoma City — (NC) — "Operation Understanding" has been launched in the Oklahoma City-Tulsa diocese by Bishop Eugene J. McGulganey.

The Bishop's plan is to acquaint all Oklahomans with the Catholic Church. Specifically, this will be done at an open house to be held on Sunday, March 4, when more than two million non-Catholics of Oklahoma will be invited to visit any Catholic church in Oklahoma.

At the open house non-Catholics will be taken on a tour of the churches and all articles and sacramentals used in Catholic worship will be explained to them. Among these will be baptismal fonts, confessionals, Stations of the Cross, statues, stiers, incense and vestments. It will be a "Get-Acquainted Day" with the Catholic Church for all interested non-Catholics.

Purpose of the plan is to give the non-Catholics of Oklahoma (approximately 87 per cent of the population) a better understanding of Catholicism

and the Church, thus the name "Operation Understanding." Bishop McGulganey desires those outside the Faith to become better acquainted with the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.

Several thousand Catholic men and women will call on every home in Oklahoma in advance of March 4, issuing an invitation to visit the nearest

Catholic church on that day with their friends and neighbors. At the state-wide open house, no questions will be asked, no obligations imposed. Visitors will be conducted around the churches in groups and everything explained to them. These follow-up meetings will be held in church halls or those desiring to obtain more specific information.

Cardinal Reveals U. S. Priest Gave Him Emergency Haircut

Monday, India — (NC) — An American priest filed in as an emergency barber and gave him "a fine haircut" during his tour of the United States, His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias revealed at a news conference here.

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Bombay said that he happened to mention his need of a haircut to the secretary of a Bishop who was his host. To his surprise, he said, a priest was on the spot shortly afterward with complete barber's paraphernalia and did a good

job. The priest explained his father was a barber and he had picked up the trade as a boy, the Cardinal said.

The Cardinal brought up the haircut incident without identifying the priest — in point of his assertion that most Americans have a high opinion of the dignity of work.

The Americans believe, he said, that it is not the work which dignifies the man, but the man who dignifies the work.

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