



Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York (right) and U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts (left) are "prominently mentioned" for the democratic vice-presidential nomination.

## Freedom Bids Flood Mail To Red China

Chicago — (RNS) — Air mail letters are pouring into Red China at the rate of a thousand a day demanding the immediate release of eleven American civilians still imprisoned there, the Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., stated here.

The Catholic Missionary said the letters are being sent by Americans of all ages from coast to coast in answer to the Freedom Crusade which he launched on April 17 in Washington, D.C.

FATHER RIGNEY, himself a former prisoner of the Chinese Communists, said he thought the letters received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, head of the Chinese government, must already be in the hundreds of thousands. He stated that over 50,000 persons have gone to the trouble of reporting back to him that they had mailed individual letters to Mao.

Americans in all walks of life and of every religious conviction are joining in the Freedom Crusade, Father Rigney reported.

FATHER RIGNEY said the crusade will stop only when the last prisoner is free.

"The crusade has brought results and will bring results," he stated, "because the Chinese Reds, like all other Communists, are afraid of adverse publicity and an aroused public opinion."

Two prisoners of the Chinese Communists have been released since the Freedom Crusade started. They are the Rev. John W. Clifford, S.J., of San Francisco, and the Rev. Thomas L. Phillips, S.J., of Butte, Mont. But eleven Americans are still in Chinese prisons. They include six Catholic priests and one Lutheran missionary.

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"And surely no one can object if they get the nomination on the basis of their political abilities. What we do object to — and strenuously — is the idea that Catholicism is negotiable in political currency."

"Prominently mentioned" for the Democratic vice presidential nomination, says the Catholic magazine, "are Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York, Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, both Catholics in good standing, and Governor Frank Lausche of Ohio, who is involved in an invalid

## Religion In Politics

### 'God As Political Pawn' Deplored By Magazine

Union City, N. J. — (Special) — Commenting on a report that the Democratic party is considering nominating a Catholic for the vice presidency, The Sign, national Catholic magazine published here, says in a leading editorial in its July issue that it "objects — and strenuously — to the idea that Catholicism is negotiable in political currency."

"A MAN'S religion," The Sign asserts "should not become something to be traded in a political deal anymore than it should be held against him as a liability. Any attempt to make God a political pawn can only rebound to the nation's shame."

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civil marriage to a non-Catholic.

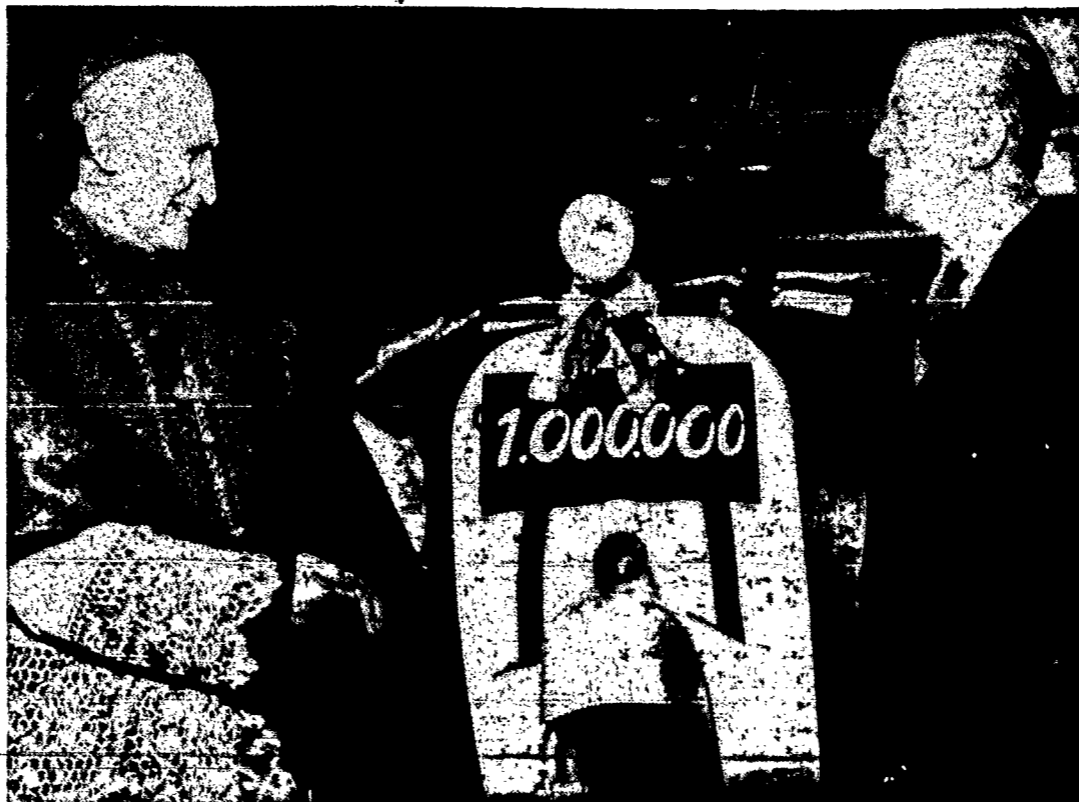
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First Bishop

Kingston, Jamaica — (NC) — Bishop John J. McElaney, S.J., will be installed as first Bishop of Kingston, Jamaica, by Bishop John C. Heenan of Leeds, England, in Holy Trinity Cathedral here on August 15.



## Scooters Put Italy On Wheels

Pisa, Italy — (NC) — Archbishop Ugo Comazzi of Pisa (left) and Enrico Piaggio, inventor of the famed "Vespa" motor scooter, smile as they watch the millionth Vespa roll off the production line at the Piaggio Works near here. Piaggio is known as the man who put Italy on two wheels.

## Parishioners Pray For Collection Thief

St. Louis — (NC) — The thief who stole the collection from a Sunday Mass at St. Rita's Church in Vinita Park, got something more than he bargained for — the prayers of St. Rita's parishioners.

Father William H. Baudendistel, pastor, led 200 parishioners in prayers for the thief at a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, two days after the theft.

The undetermined sum collected at a Sunday Mass was stolen during a three-minute interval when the pastor left the sacristy to distribute Holy Communion. He was unseen by the priests distributing Communion, who had their backs to the sacristy door.

Gravely Stricken

Seattle, Wash. — (NC) — Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty of Yakima, Wash., 61, was reported in a serious condition at Providence hospital here. The prelate was stricken (July 8) with a heart attack.

## Senate Moves Against Obscene Book Traffic

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — A bill authorizing the Postmaster General to impound mail suspected of promoting obscenity was unanimously passed by the Senate here. It previously had been approved by the House.

Passage of the measure climaxed a five-year fight in Congress in which religious groups took an active part.

THE LEGISLATION permits the Postmaster to impound suspected mail for 20 days unless he gets a court order extending the ban.

If a federal judge agrees the confiscated publications violates the law, the impounding order can remain in effect until the case comes to trial.

Under existing legislation, the Postmaster must obtain a court order before impounding suspected mail. Delays in obtaining such orders allow defendants to continue using the mails until the court action.

REP. EDWARD H. REES (R-Kans.), co-sponsor of the bill in the House, hailed it as "one of the most important measures passed by the present Congress."

Rep. John Dowdy (D-Tex.), chairman of the subcommittee drafting the measure, said it would "kill traffic in obscenity by taking profits out of the operation."

"It stops the mail coming into them with orders," he pointed out.

"Heretofore the profits have been so great that purveyors would willingly risk the penalty of a conviction just so long as they were given time to grab their gains. Some even had the gall to brag that their wares were so undesirable they were about to be banned from the mails."

## Religious Vocations 'Bloom In Family,' Says Bishop Sheen

Notre Dame, Ind. (NC) — The Christian home, is the best source of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in a 20th century that "has suddenly discovered the value of souls," according to Bishop

Fulton J. Sheen of New York, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He spoke at the Vocation Institute held here at the University of Notre Dame.

COMMUNISM, UNLIKE the imperialism of earlier centuries, to play down the superficial attractions of the religious life, "seeks lands only secondarily" and instead strives to conquer the minds and souls of men through "propaganda, brainwashing, bureaucracy and gendarmes." Communism he continued, "is seeking vocations for the kingdom of anti-Christ. Since souls are the prize, Christianity finds itself face to face with an enemy which is equally interested in winning souls."

God always provides enough vocations for His Church, the Bishop emphasized. If the Church lacks sufficient priests or religious in certain countries and in certain periods of history, it is because young people have failed to respond to the divine call, he said.

"THE NUMBER of vocations reflect the spirit of the Church in any nation," the prelate asserted. Stressing the importance of prayer in attracting youth to the religious life, and helping them to persevere in it, he likened to "a spiritual insecticide which creates an environment in which a religious vocation may bear fruit."

"As a nation gets the kind of government it deserves, so a diocese, a nation, a religious society gets the kind of vocations for which they yearn, for which they aspire and for which they pray," Bishop Sheen stated.

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life bloom and flourish in the "profoundly Christian family," the prelate

noted. Those who attribute vocations to pamphlets, magazines, movies, missionary exhibits and the like "confuse the occasion with the cause" of a religious calling.

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